

Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU) is the first national university in Georgia and the first higher education institution in the South Caucasus region. It established formal education in the country, created the local intellectual workforce and paved the way for human development and democracy. For over 100 years TSU has granted degrees to men and women and promoted the ideals of equality, justice and progress.

The University was founded on February 8th, 1918 as a comprehensive European-style higher education institution. Majority of its 12 founders had received higher education in the European countries and brought their knowledge, experience and contacts to TSU, thus establishing the Georgian higher education system on truly Western values. Being a national university, TSU has always delivered schooling in Georgian language making it the only institution of higher education to do so in the former Russian empire. The Centennial anniversary of Tbilisi State University, celebrated nationwide, was an event organized under the auspices of UNESCO.

Initially, TSU started with the Faculty of Philosophy, which included some fields of study from humanities as well as natural sciences and mathematics. Today, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University is a research-intensive higher education institution focusing on four core pillars of performance - teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook.

The mission of Tbilisi State University is:

- To establish comprehensive national and international academic values and to support intellectual, cultural and socio-economic development of the society;
- To produce and further new knowledge;
- To sustain and further on research capacity and innovation tradition;
- Train competitive staff;
- To have an exemplary offer of student-centred, fuller, longer and further education;
- To maintain an honourable and distinguished position in international Higher Education Community.

TSU shares the ideals promoted by the Magna Charta of the European Universities and its values are based on critical, creative and progressive thinking, the principles of academic freedom and academic ethics; open, dynamic and transparent relations.

Nowadays, there are 7 Faculties at TSU with over 200 accredited academic programs in various disciplines serving almost 26,000 students:

- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Medicine
- Faculty of Humanities
- Faculty of Business and Economics
- Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences
- Faculty of Social and Political Sciences
- Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences

Tbilisi State University resources include 8 million book volumes, 22 million patented works, 13 buildings in Tbilisi and Kutaisi housing 85 laboratories, several Smart Labs (SMART AtmoSim, SMART|EDM_Lab, SMART|SmR_lab), Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Centre and a Fabrication Laboratory.

Tbilisi State University is a student-centred institution putting particular emphasis on:

- Providing in-depth knowledge of a major field of study,
- Nurturing broad understanding of the sciences, social sciences, humanities, and the arts,
- Developing skills in communication and in critical thinking,
- Cultivating global perspectives gained through intellectual and social exchange of its academics and staff through professional and study programs,
- Encouraging responsible citizenship and understanding of ethical norms

TSU is an active member of prestigious international networks, including:

- International Association of Universities (IAU)
- European University Association (EUA)
- Black Sea University Network (BSU)
- Eurasian Universities Union (EURAS)
- Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF)
- Compostela Group of Universities
- UNICA
- European University Foundation (EUF)

TSU, home of 16 research institutes itself, has close scientific and educational contacts with hundreds of universities and research centres around the world and the oldest institutional partnership with Friedrich Schiller University of Jena dates back to 1966. TSU researchers regularly participate in scientific projects of world magnitude including (but not limited to):

- ATLAS experiment carried out on the Large Hadron Collider at CERN (Switzerland),
- Experimental research at the COSY accelerator of the Jülich Research Center (Germany),
- the COMET experiment at the Japan Proton Accelerator Research Complex (J-PARC),
- KM3NeT experiment launched in the Mediterranean Sea,
- International accelerator facility FAIR (Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research), one of the largest research projects worldwide, being built in Darmstadt, Germany.

Academia Europaea, a European non-governmental association uniting 3,800 members and acting as an academy to promote learning, education and research from 1988 opened its 5th regional hub at Tbilisi State University following Barcelona, Bergen, Cardiff and Wrocław. This makes Georgia the first non-EU member state, where a regional Academia Europaea hub has been established.

International outlook is a high priority for TSU. The university puts special emphasis on joint projects and on the international mobility of its students and staff. Between the years of 1995 and 2023, TSU has been the leader in the post-Soviet region with the number of EU funded projects - TSU has been part of almost 50 TEMPUS/ERASMUS+ projects and a member of 7 Erasmus Mundus consortia.

TSU is a leader in the country with the number of Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility projects (ICM); it is proud partner of more than 500 projects with more than 120 higher education institutions in 26 program countries (EACEA) within 2015-2023.