

1. **Title of the Program: Eurasian and Caucasus Studies** (ევრაზიისა და კავკასიის კვლევები)
International Interdisciplinary English-language Master's Program in Social Sciences
2. **Degree Offered: Master of Social Sciences (MSocSe);** Main Field of Study: Eurasian and Caucasus Studies
(სოციალურ მეცნიერებათა მაგისტრი, სწავლების ძირითადი დარგი: ევრაზიისა და კავკასიის კვლევები)
3. **Head of the Program: Pikria Asanishvili,** TSU Associate Professor
International academic supervisor: Professor **Stephen Jones**, the head of Department of Russian and Eurasian Studies, Mount Holyoke College (MHC), South Hadley, MA, USA, International Scholar of the OSI/HESP Academic Fellowship Program.
Program Authors: George Khelashvili, Marine Chitashvili, Koba Turmanidze
4. **Language of instruction: English**
5. **Number of credits (ECTS): 120**
6. **Tuition fee: 4500 Gel (per 2 years)**
7. **Prerequisites for the program:** an undergraduate degree or recognized equivalent qualification in any academic area. Some background in social sciences is an asset.
8. **Qualification of the graduate program**

This English-language program provides students with analytical skills, an interdisciplinary knowledge base, and practical understanding of the settings in which fast-evolving processes in our region take place. Designed for students who are interested in economic, social and political transformation in the South Caucasus, this program has a strong international focus. The program is created in close cooperation with prominent West European and US Universities. Students have unique chance to get Master's degree in Social Sciences adequate to Western standards of education. Graduates of the program will obtain academic degree: Master of Social Sciences, in the main field of study: Eurasian and Caucasus Studies. Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University will issue Diploma to graduates of the program. Diploma Supplement corresponds to the requirements of the Bologna Process for European Universities. Foreign students are also eligible to be enrolled or participate in the program.

The aim of the program is to advance research and scholarship in economic, social and political transformation of the South Caucasus region. To achieve this objective the programme takes an integrated approach to transformation studies. By integrated approach we mean: 1) looking at the transformation process through the lenses of different disciplines such as political science, international relations, economics, sociology, law and history; 2) combining theoretical, skills-oriented, and research courses in the curriculum. Additional objective of the program is to facilitate exchange of academic resources and promote research cooperation among the South Caucasus countries.

Students are instructed and supervised by TSU professors, local and international lecturers, Academic Fellowship Program fellows, professionals with work experience at international and local organizations. Guest lectures and workshops for students are regularly delivered by visiting professors from leading universities of Europe and North America. The language of instruction is English.

Program Structure and content:

The degree requires 120 ECTS credits and will take two calendar years (four semesters) from September 2011 to June 2013. The curriculum takes an integrated approach by combining theoretical and applied courses. In the first and second semesters students are required to earn 30 ECTS (total of 60 ECTS in both semesters); in the third semester students are required to earn 20 ECTS of study program. Totally the students have to earn 80 ECTS in courses and seminars of the program. The students are required to take internship in the third (fall) semester, and undergo intensive on-job training at the government agencies, local NGOs/think tanks, research institutes or international organizations (10 ECTS). Simultaneously to internship period, during whole III semester students work on their graduate thesis research proposal and have to undergo pre-defense of research proposal in March (beginning of IV semester). In the fourth semester the students work closely with their research supervisor to prepare Graduate thesis. Theses must feature the students' own research, and be defended in late June (30 ECTS).

Classes are small (less than 20 students) and include lectures and seminars given by Georgian and international faculty who have considerable academic and practical experience working in Universities, NGOs, think tanks and Government. Teaching will be collaborative, student-centered and skill-based.

The program involves preparatory course in Academic Writing and Presentation Skills. Mandatory courses are delivered in I semester and include: Quantitative Research Methods-introduction to Applied Statistics, Philosophy of

Social Sciences, Qualitative Research Methods, Transformation in the South Caucasus, Post-Soviet Politics and Public Policy Analysis. In the II semester students have elective courses in Foreign Policy Analysis, Culture and Identity in Changeable Society, International Organizations in the South Caucasus and EU Politics, Political History of the USSR, Research Methods in International Relations and one mandatory course – Introduction to Economics. In the third semester students are offered the following elective courses: Research Methods in International Relations, Comparative Politics: From Authoritarianism to Democracy with Adjectives, Nationalism: Theories and Practice, and International Peace and War. In the third semester students are required to take internship, which comprises 250 hours (including contact hours and independent work) and 10 ECTS. The whole fourth semester is dedicated to MA thesis preparation and defense. About 30% of courses are cross-listed with TSU Master’s program *Diplomacy and International Relations*.

9. Learning outcome

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| Knowledge and Awareness | After successful completion of the study program, the graduate commands theoretical foundations of Transition studies, including economic, social and political transformation in the South Caucasus, and methods of research and analysis of transformation related issues; Graduates acquire analytical skills, an interdisciplinary knowledge base, and practical understanding of the settings in which fast evolving processes in the South Caucasus take place. Graduate is able to conduct a self-sufficient scientific and analytical research in the field of transition studies; is able to present the results of the research both orally and in writing. |
| Application of Knowledge/Practical Skills | Successful completion of the program will enable students to integrate the knowledge of major theoretical approaches to economic, social and political transformation with applied research and communications skills. Graduates will be aware of activities of local, national and international governmental and non-governmental organizations, and have potential to participate in those activities; familiarity with methods of social research and ability to apply these methods for studying transformation issues in the South Caucasus and related aspects of social life. Thus, the program will prepare future practitioners who plan to become researchers, policy-makers, civil servants, professionals working for national and local representative bodies and non-profit organizations. |
| General / Transferable Skills | Ability to conduct a research independently and present its results both in writing and orally with the aid of appropriate computer software; ability to communicate effectively with stakeholders, to participate in team work; ability to comprehend and critically evaluate texts in English languages, as well as to produce original ones. |
| Learning Skills | ability to continue studying on PhD level, conduct independent research |
| Reasoning | Ability to plan and conduct research independently, critically engage with the literature, interpret the analysis and communicate results; engage in debates and effective communication. |
| Values | Normative assessment of international political developments; awareness about the scholar’s responsibility for the society; developing cultural relativism and cultural tolerance, respecting ethnic minorities and developing the strategies of peaceful coexistence in a multicultural society. |

The courses of the Master’s program are oriented to give students appropriate theoretical knowledge as well as special skills necessary to carry out academic research, skills of oral communication and presentation or skills of team work. The following matrix of competences well displays the skills and values obtained through the courses:

| სასწავლო კურსის სახელწოდება | | ცოდნა და გაცნობიერება; Knowledge and Awareness | ცოდნის პრაქტიკაში გამოყენების უნარი; Application of Knowledge/Practical Skills | დასკვნის უნარი; Reasoning | კომუნიკაციის უნარი; General / Transferable Skills | სწავლის უნარი; Learning Skills | ღირებულებები. Values |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | აკადემიური წერა და პრეზენტაციის უნარები Academic Writing and Presentation skills | X | X | X | X | X | |
| 2. | კულტურა და იდენტობები ცვალებად საზოგადოებაში Culture and Identities in Changeable Society | X | | X | X | X | X |
| 3. | საერთაშორისო მშვიდობა და ომი International Peace and War | X | | X | X | X | X |
| 4. | ეკონომიკის შესავალი | X | X | X | | X | |

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| | Introduction to Economics | | | | | | |
| 5. | საერთაშორისო ორგანიზაციები და ევროკავშირის პოლიტიკა სამხრეთ კავკასიაში International Organizations and EU Politics in South Caucasus | X | | X | X | X | X |
| 6. | ნაციონალიზმის კვლევები: თეორია და პრაქტიკა Nationalism Studies: Theory and Practice | X | | X | X | | X |
| 7. | სოციალურ მეცნიერებათა ფილოსოფია Philosophy of Social Sciences | X | | X | | X | X |
| 8. | საბჭოთა კავშირის პოლიტიკური ისტორია Political History of the USSR | X | X | X | | X | X |
| 9. | საჯარო პოლიტიკის ანალიზი Public Policy Analysis | X | X | X | X | | |
| 10. | თვისებრივი კვლევის მეთოდები Qualitative Research Methods | X | X | | X | X | X |
| 11. | გამოყენებითი სტატისტიკის შესავალი Introduction to Applied Statistics | X | X | | X | | |
| 12. | შედარებითი პოლიტიკა: ავტორიტარიანიზმიდან ნახევრადდემოკრატიებამდე Comparative Politics: From Authoritarianism to Democracy with Adjectives | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 13. | ტრანსფორმაცია სამხრეთ კავკასიაში Transformation in the South Caucasus | X | X | X | X | | X |
| 14. | საგარეო პოლიტიკის ანალიზი Foreign Policy Analysis | X | | X | X | X | |
| 15. | კვლევის მეთოდები საერთაშორისო ურთიერთობებში Research Methods in International Relations | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 16. | პოსტ-საბჭოთა პოლიტიკა Post-Soviet Politics | X | X | X | | X | X |

10. Grading scheme

| Scores | Evaluation | Classification of Evaluation | GPA |
|----------|--|------------------------------|-----|
| 91%-100% | (A) "Excellent" | Positive | 4.0 |
| 81%-90% | (B) "Very good" | Positive | 3.0 |
| 71%-80% | (C) "Good" | Positive | 2.0 |
| 61%-70% | (D) "Satisfactory" | Positive | 1.0 |
| 51%-60% | (E) "Sufficient" | Positive | 0.5 |
| 41%-50% | (FX) "Marginal Fail" (Failed with the right to resit an exam) | Negative | 0.0 |
| 0%-40% | (F) "Fail" (Has to retake the course) | Negative | 0.0 |

11. Career Opportunities

Graduates completing their degree with the Eurasian and Caucasus Studies Master's Program will be able to:

-)] Carry out research in transition studies and on topics related to social, economic and political transformation in the South Caucasus region
-)] Develop policy recommendations related to the challenges of on-going transformation in South Caucasus countries
-)] Work as policy-practitioners at government ministries, international organizations, NGOs
-)] Hold research and teaching positions at universities, think-tanks, and research centers
-)] Prepare for study abroad for Master's degree or PhD.

12. Admission Requirements

-)] Candidates who have BA degree or HE 5 year studies graduation diploma are eligible to submit their applications. However, it is desirable that the candidates have successfully completed undergraduate degrees in one of the following fields: International Relations; Political Science; Sociology; Journalism; International Law; Political Geography; International Economics; Law; Foreign Languages. Current students expecting to graduate in summer 2012 are eligible to apply. No prior working experience is required;
-)] English language proficiency level B2 – demonstrated either by taking the corresponding examination at TSU Language Center or submitting standardized English Language test scores (TOEFL IBT 87 or equivalent on IELTS, Cambridge, etc.);

-)] Complete application package: TSU application form; certified copies and translations (if applicable) of Bachelor's degree certificate/Diploma, transcripts, language test scores if any, copy of ID card/ passport, documents certifying status regarding the military service (for Georgian male applicants only);
-)] Written examination;
-)] Interview with the admissions committee;
-)] National Graduate Exams (for Georgian applicants only. Non-resident applicants should submit the documentations to the Ministry of Education and Science accordingly to decree # 725 to be admitted on the program without passing National Graduate Exams).

13. Admission Examinations

✓ **Examination Committee:**

-)] Koba Turmanidze
-)] Nani Macharashvili

✓ **Appeal Committee:**

-)] Marine Chitashvili

✓ **Examination Format:**

-)] Written Examination (applicants write two short essays in response to essay questions) – 40% of overall score
-)] English test (B2 level) – 20 % of overall score
-)] Interview – 40% of overall score
-)] National exam for Master's programs – pass/fail

14. TSC Faculty *(Please see appendix 2 for TSC faculty CVs):*

-)] George Khelashvili, Assistant professor at TSU, AFP returning fellow
-)] Tamar Tskhadadze, PhD, associate professor at TSU
-)] Tamar Khuntsaria, PhD candidate, AFP returning fellow
-)] Koba Turmanidze, PhD candidate, assistant professor at TSU, AFP returning fellow
-)] Nana Macharashvili, PhD, associate professor at TSU
-)] George Mchedlishvili, PhD, AFP returning fellow
-)] Andrew Hargreaves, PhD, guest professor
-)] Khatuna Salukvadze, PhD candidate, AFP returning fellow
-)] Levan Natroshvili, guest professor
-)] Lia Tsuladze, PhD, associate professor at TSU
-)] Timothy Blauvelt, PhD, guest professor
-)] Davit Matsaberidze, assistant professor at TSU, AFP returning fellow
-)] Nodar Tangiashvili, AFP returning fellow

* Please find enclosed the program structure as appendixes #2 / იხილეთ პროგრამის სტრუქტურა ქართულ ენაზე დანართი 2-ის სახით