UNICEN WEBINAR
FOR U.S. GRANTEEES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2020
AGENDA

Greetings from the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, U.S. Department of State; U.S. Embassy in Kazakhstan; U.S. Embassy in Uzbekistan; American Councils for International Education

UniCEN Overview and Program Updates

COVID-19 and Travel Updates by Country

How to communicate effectively with Central Asian Universities

M&E and Program Reporting

Q&A
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Adrian Erlinger
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American Councils for International Education
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UNICEN NETWORK 2020:
US: 47 UNIVERSITY TEAMS
KZ: 20 (+5) UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS
KG: 3 UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS
TJ: 2 UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS
UZ: 22 UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS
KSENIA IVANENKO

Kyrgyzstan 2002

Kazakhstan 2016

Uzbekistan 2020
American Councils Kazakhstan

- Offices in Almaty and Nur-Sultan (EducationUSA only!)
- October 1 – start of the EducationUSA office in Shymkent
- 18 professional staff

**Programs**

- **Global**: FLEX, U.S.-Central Asia Education Foundation, EducationUSA, RLASP, Russian Flagship, ERLP
- **Local**: Spelling Bee, AUBG, grants from US Mission to KZ

**UniCEN**

- 5 partnership grants completed
- 15 active partnership grants
- Currently accepting applications for
- 5 additional grants
KAZAKHSTAN: COVID-19 AND TRAVEL UPDATES

Level 4 Travel Advisory: **Do Not Travel**
Visa free travel is suspended until November 1
- For visa information visit the KZ Embassy & Consulates websites
**Border remains closed with highly limited exceptions**
- PCR test is required (no more than 5 days)

Regular international commercial flights: Egypt, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, South Korea, the Netherlands, Turkey, U.A.E., Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

Travel within the country is permitted with some restrictions

For more information please visit: https://kz.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/
American Councils has a long history in Uzbekistan, with its Tashkent office running programs from 1991-2006.

In 2018, American Councils became the first U.S. NGO registered in Uzbekistan in more than a decade.

AC Uzbekistan runs more than 9 programs including: FLEX, YPI, Open World, UBL, FEP, ESN, U.S.-CAEF, UniCEN, American Windows

17 professional staff members are working on these programs.

At the moment, there are 22 UniCEN award winners among Uzbekistan Higher Education Institutions that are running active partnership projects with US HEIs.
Uzbekistan – Level 3: Reconsider Travel - link

Entry and Exit Requirements:
• U.S. citizens are permitted to enter Uzbekistan but need a visa. Please see the Country Specific Information on travel.state.gov for more details.

• If a person has not been tested for coronavirus in the last 72 hours or has symptoms of coronavirus infection (cough, fever, etc.), he/she will be tested for coronavirus PCR or express test or undergoes antigen testing upon arrival in Uzbekistan at the checkpoint (airport, train station, etc.) at his own expense and placed in the territory of Uzbekistan and sent to a hotel or home quarantine for 14 days.

• Receipts are issued to persons arriving in Uzbekistan to undertake to stay in a hotel or house quarantine for 14 days.

• If the results of the inspection are positive, the person is quarantined in the quarantine center or at the hotel in the prescribed manner.

Transportation Options:
• As of September 1, limited, regular commercial flights will begin operating on September 1 to and from Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Russia, and Frankfurt.

• October 1 - all restrictions on air, ground travel lifted

• Public transportation is operating, with masks and proper social distancing measures mandatory. Taxis should have plastic screens between the front and back seats.

For more information visit: https://uz.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/

* The rules are indicated according to the policies announced on September 17, 2020.
American Councils Kyrgyzstan

• **About:** American Councils has operated in the Kyrgyz Republic since 1994. The office is located in the capital city of Bishkek.
  • Our office is represented by 12 staff members

**Current programs:** Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX), U.S.-Central Asia Education Foundation (U.S.-CAEF) EducationUSA, FLEX Exchanges to Internships, USG Alumni Engagement, USG Alumni Small Grants, Central Asia University Partnerships (UniCEN), Critical Language Scholarship (CLS), Central Asia Spelling Bee

**UniCEN**
• 3 partnership grants are currently in progress with 3 local universities
KYRGYZSTAN: COVID-19 AND TRAVEL UPDATES

U.S. Embassy Bishkek Advisory - Level 4: Do Not Travel

International restrictions:
- Flights being operated between Bishkek, Istanbul and Dubai. All land borders are closed.
- As of August 1, 2020, all passengers, including transit passengers, traveling through Dubai will require a negative COVID-19 test certificate
- Most foreign nationals are banned from entering the country, including permanent residence holders

Exceptions MAY be given for:
- Foreign citizens who are specialist workers on W1 and W2 visas
- Employees of diplomatic missions and their family members
- Members of foreign delegations and international organizations
- Those who have an immediate Kyrgyz relative and proof of relationship (original documents only, no copies)
- University students (with visas and original proof of enrollment)

Local restrictions:
- No curfew
- No restrictions on intercity or interstate travel
- Public transportation operating on usual schedule

For more up-to-date info and updates, please visit: https://kg.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/security-and-travel-information/

Past programming: Summer Camp America, Study With Us, Open World, Community Connections, and more.
TAJIKISTAN: COVID-19 AND TRAVEL UPDATES

Level 4 Travel Advisory: Do Not Travel
• Land borders remain closed
• Airport remains closed to commercial carriers (except for FlyDubai
• Tourist visas are not being issued
• For visa information visit the Tajik Embassy and Ministry of Foreign Affairs websites
• PCR test is required (no more than 4 days)

Travel Updates:
• Currently only FlyDubai and Somon Air twice per week
• Airport reopening is assessed every two weeks

For visa information, please visit:
https://mfa.tj/en/washington and
https://www.visa.gov.tj/
HOW TO COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY WITH UZBEK PARTNER UNIVERSITIES

- Use as official conversation method
- Use Zoom calls to make in-depth discussions
- Open a telegram group chat for closer integration

If you have issues reaching your partners in Central Asia please contact regional American Councils stuff members
HOW TO COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVLY WITH CENTRAL ASIAN UNIVERSITIES

- Different time dimension and approach to time management
- With more autonomy given, the systems of highly education are still centralized
- High hierarchy at HEIs
- High power distance
- Transition of staff
- Lack of confidence
- MoUs and Certificates are very important
HOW TO COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY WITH CENTRAL ASIAN UNIVERSITIES

• Keep on discussing your plans with the U.S. university partner regularly: biweekly conference calls on skype, WhatsApp, telegram
• Respond to the emails timely (check your spam box)
• Travel arrangements
• MoUs, official documents, etc might be requested

Reach out to us if any questions or concerns arise
Monitoring and Evaluation Goals

1) Central Asian university administrators apply knowledge and skills learned through UniCEN to adapt faculty policies, practices, and administrative structure.

2) Central Asian university administrators increase international student exchanges with the U.S.

3) Central Asian university faculty increase collaboration and partnerships with U.S. counterparts that support the role of universities in society and economic and workforce development.

4) Central Asian university faculty apply knowledge and skills learned through UniCEN to adapt their curriculum, teaching and assessment methods for improved student outcomes.
Goal 4: to apply knowledge and skills learned through UniCEN to adapt curriculum, teaching and assessment methods for improved student outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Data Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty introduce or revise undergraduate courses based on U.S. teaching methods or curriculum</td>
<td>Number of undergraduate courses improved</td>
<td>Improved course syllabi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty introduce or revise graduate courses based on U.S. teaching methods or curriculum</td>
<td>Number of graduate programs improved</td>
<td>Undergraduate program structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. faculty have jointly supervised graduate dissertations</td>
<td>Number of shared supervision of graduate students</td>
<td>Lists of joint supervision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty have introduced new student assessment methods</td>
<td>Number of faculty who report introducing new assessment methods</td>
<td>Course syllabi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Departments have introduced faculty evaluations by at the end of the course</td>
<td>Number of faculty evaluated by students at the end of the course</td>
<td>Faculty evaluations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Goal 3: to increase collaboration and partnerships with U.S. counterparts that support the role of universities in society and economic and workforce development

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<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Data Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty have submitted proposals for international conferences and professional workshops</td>
<td>Number of joint papers and sessions submitted</td>
<td>Paper or session submission confirmation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty have (co)submitted papers to international peer-reviewed journals</td>
<td>Number of submissions</td>
<td>Paper abstracts/submission confirmation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty have presented their research at international conferences/workshops</td>
<td>Number of presentations</td>
<td>Conference/workshop programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty successfully published papers in peer-reviewed journals</td>
<td>Number of papers accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals</td>
<td>Acceptance confirmations/papers in peer-reviewed journals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty submitted joint proposals to international funding agencies</td>
<td>Number of joint proposals submitted</td>
<td>Joint proposal abstracts</td>
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Goal 2: to increase international student exchanges with the U.S.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Data Source</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrators have included targets and goals for student exchange with U.S. partners</td>
<td>Number of administrators who included targets and goals for student exchange to strategic planning</td>
<td>Names of administrators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students have been advised on exchange and study opportunities in U.S.</td>
<td>Number of students advised on exchange and study opportunities in U.S.</td>
<td>Names of students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students participate in outgoing exchange programs in U.S.</td>
<td>Number of students who participated in international exchanges in U.S.</td>
<td>Names of students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. students participate on exchange programs at Central Asian universities</td>
<td>Number of incoming U.S. students in the university</td>
<td>Names of U.S. students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoUs are signed with U.S. universities on student exchange</td>
<td>Numbers of MoUs signed</td>
<td>MoUs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Goal 1: to adapt faculty policies, practices, and administrative structure

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<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
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<th>Data Source</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior leadership has included international activity in the university mission and vision statements</td>
<td>Number of mission and vision statements adapted to include internationalization</td>
<td>University mission and vision statements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The university has formed an internationalization committee with established roles and responsibilities</td>
<td>Number of universities that established Committee/Board</td>
<td>List of Committee/Board members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrators have introduced new internationalization policies and practices</td>
<td>Number of universities that adopted policies and practices</td>
<td>Policy documents/In-person meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrators implement recommendations of U.S. internationalization policies and practices to senior leadership</td>
<td>Number of administrators that implement recommendations</td>
<td>Policy documents/In-person meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The university has integrated US practices into administrative structure with support from professional networks</td>
<td>Number of universities that built in U.S. practices</td>
<td>Practices confirmation documents/In-person meetings</td>
</tr>
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QUATERLY UPDATES (October 20, January 20, April 20, July 20)

- Activities in the reported period
  - Curriculum, Teaching and Assessment Methods Revisions
  - Joint Research, Conferences and Publications with the C.A. Partner
  - Faculty and Student (Virtual) Exchanges
  - New Faculty Policies and Practices introduced to C.A. university
  - Other Activities with Central Asian University Partner

- Outcomes

- Links of information about the project (university website, newsletter, social media, etc.)

- Project Concerns and Limitations. Is it on track/schedule to be completed within the estimated period of performance? If not, how do you plan to get the program back on schedule?

- Sustainability (plans for future activity or funding beyond project end)

- How can American Councils help support your partnership?
Central Asia University Partnerships Program (UniCEN)

The Central Asia University Partnerships Program (UniCEN) is a platform to increase sustainable...
RESOURCES, OPPORTUNITIES

Grants & Scholarships

**Fulbright Scholar in Residence Program**
Through the Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence (S-I-R) Program, U.S. colleges and universities host scholars from other countries to assist in internationalizing U.S. campuses, institutional...

**Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program**
The FLTA Program provides an opportunity for young, international teachers of English to refine their teaching skills, increase their English-language proficiency and extend their
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