

Title of the Program: Master Program in Transformation in the South Caucasus
Interdisciplinary, English-language Master's Program in Social Sciences

Academic Degree Offered: Master of Social Sciences in Transformation in South Caucasus

Program Authors: Professor Koba Turmanidze, Professor George Khelashvili, Professor Marine Chitashvili

Program is administered by the Center for Social Sciences (Director Marine Chitashvili, full professor of psychology, I. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences)

International academic supervision: 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.

Qualification of the program: The Regional, 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 people 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. The program is funded within CSS grant from Higher Educational Support program of Open Society Institute, Budapest. Graduates of the program will obtain academic degree: Master of Social Sciences, main field of study: Transformation in the South Caucasus. 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.

a) Goals and Aims of 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 in the curriculum theoretical, skills-oriented, and research courses. Additional objective of the programme 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 one and half Calendar years (four semesters) from September 2010 to February 2012. The curriculum takes an integrated approach by combining theoretical and applied courses. Preparatory courses starts from September 1 and lasts for 3 weeks. In the Fall Semester, starting at the third week of September and Spring Semester, starting in mid February the students take 15-week-long courses and are required to earn a total of 70 ECTS over the two semesters (including 10 ECTS for research seminars). In Summer Semester starting from the late May the students take 7 week intensive course and should earn additional 10 ECTS. Totally the students have to earn 80 ECTS in courses and seminars of the program. The students require to take internship in the Summer, 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 October (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 February (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 courses in Academic Writing and Presentation Skills, and Quantitative Research Methods-introduction to Applied Statistics. Mandatory courses are delivered in I semester and include: Transformation in the South Caucasus, Philosophy of Social Sciences, Qualitative Research Methods, Introduction to Economics, Policy Analysis, and Public International and International Human Rights Law. In II semester students have elective courses on International Relations Theories; Comparative Politics: From Authoritarianism to Democracy with Adjectives; Culture and Identity in Globalizing World; Foreign Policy Analysis; International Organizations in the South Caucasus and EU Politics; Politics of Post-Communist transition; Social Policy; Policy Analysis of Development and the Political History of the USSR. Following the summer exams the students will have a three month internship and six months to writing a dissertation (for more detailed information please visit www.ucss.ge).

b) Learning outcome:

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 selfsufficient 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 to 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.

c) Employment opportunities: Graduates completing their degree with the Transformation in the South Caucasus Master's Program will be able to:

- Carry out research in transition studies and on the 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.

Preconditions for Admission to the Master's Program:

- 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 June 2009 are eligible to apply. No prior working experience is required
- English language proficiency level B2 – demonstrated either by taking the corresponding examination at CSS (test provided by TSU Language Center) or submitting standardized English Language test scores (TOEFL IBT 87 or equivalent on IELTS, Cambridge, etc.)
- Complete application package: CSS /TSU application form (www.ucss.ge); letter of motivation; certified copies and translations (if applicable) of Bachelor's degree certificate/Diploma, transcripts, language test scores, other relevant documents
- CSS /TSU Written examination
- Interview with the CSS / TSU 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).

Structure of the Master Program:

Preparatory Courses (September 2010)			
#	Course Title	Contact hours	ECTS
0.1	Academic Writing and Presentation skills	30	pass
0.2	Quantitative Research Methods – Introduction to applied Statistics	30	pass
I semester			
Obligatory Courses			
1.1	Research Methods: - Philosophy of Social Sciences - Qualitative Research Methods	60	10
1.2	Introduction to Economics	60	10
1.3	Public Policy Analysis	30	5
1.4	Transformation in the South Caucasus	30	10
1.5	Public International and International Human Rights Law	30	5
Credits in the first semester			40
II – III semesters courses and seminars			
Elective Courses – Track A (20 ECTS should be earned)			
2.1.1	Foreign Policy Analysis	30	10
2.1.2	Culture and Identity in Globalizing World	30	10
2.1.3	Theories of International Relations	30	10
2.1.4	Comparative Politics: From Authoritarianism to Democracy with Adjectives (<i>Intensive course in III semester</i>) (Track A)	30	10
Obligatory Courses – Track B (20 ECTS should be earned)			
2.2.1	International Organizations and European Politics in the South Caucasus	30	10
2.2.2	Nationalism Theories and Practice	30	10
2.2.3	Political History of USSR	30	10
2.2.4	Policy Analysis of Development	30	10
2.2.5	Social Policy (<i>Intensive course in III semester</i>)	30	10
2.2.6	Politics of Post-Communist Transition (<i>Intensive course in III semester</i>)	30	10
Credits in the second and third semesters courses and seminars			40
III (summer) semester			
Obligatory Courses			

3.1	Internship	250	10
Credits in the third semester (Internship only)			10
IV semester			
4.1	MA theses		30
Credits in the fourth semester			30
TOTAL ECTS credits in the program:			120