



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA
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March 18, 1994

Dr. Philippe Geyskens

Dear Dr. Geyskens:

On behalf of the AUA administration in Yerevan, I welcome you to Armenia and to the American University of Armenia (AUA).

I am convinced that you will find your stay at AUA to be both fulfilling and rewarding. The challenges are many and, indeed, you will encounter difficulties. However, the majority of former faculty on leaving Armenia have said that the feeling of satisfaction derived from teaching at AUA is unmatched. And incredibly, despite the conditions here, many former faculty have returned to AUA for additional teaching tenures.

AUA was founded with the goal of addressing some of the many problems associated with the birth of a new country that hopes to be governed by the new principles of democracy and a free-market economy. Our mission at AUA is to educate and train a new generation of leaders and professionals in the best traditions of American universities and graduate schools. Your commitment to AUA will go a long way to helping us achieve this mission by displaying the highest standards of American education.

Although the administration at AUA, through the faculty services office, will do all it can to make your stay as comfortable and enjoyable as possible, there will also be difficulties. Armenia is just now trying to recover from the collapse of the former Soviet system and is taking its initial steps as an independent, democratic country. It is a country that is under severe economic and energetic blockade and the manifestations of these affect all who are living in the country. Additionally, this has resulted in very high inflation, shortages of many items necessary for living, and a dramatic fall of the standard of living. Under these difficult conditions, the administration at AUA looks to ease many of these burdens. Please do not hesitate to bring to my attention any problems or difficulties you may have. Additionally, our faculty services office will be ready, around the clock, to provide needed assistance and support.

In the coming weeks, the University has planned numerous events ranging from outings and field trips to parties and reception which you will want to attend. You will be made aware of these on a weekly basis through the faculty services office. In fact, our first gathering will take place later today.

This afternoon at 1:00 pm. we will conduct an orientation session at the University which will help you get acclimated to AUA and Armenia as well as solve any problems which may have arisen upon your arrival. Please make every effort to attend. Our University driver will pick you up at your apartment at 12:30 pm.

I look forward to seeing you later today.

Sincerely,

Michael Kouchakdjian, Ph.D.
Director of Administration