



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA

The American University of Armenia (AUA) provides high-quality graduate and undergraduate education that encourages civic engagement and promotes democratic values. AUA fosters scholarship in a setting that values and develops academic excellence, free inquiry, integrity, scholarship, leadership, and service to society. AUA is accredited by the US-based WASC Senior College and University Commission, and is affiliated with the University of California.

AUA offers Master's degrees in eight fields of study: business administration, industrial engineering and systems management, computer and information science, political science and international affairs, economics, law, teaching English as a foreign language (TEFL), and public health, enjoying an affiliation with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. It also offers

a dual Master of Business Administration/Master of Public Health programme. AUA's Bachelor's programme offers degrees in English and communications, computational sciences, and business. Through these courses, the university offers students depth of knowledge for career preparation and further study, as well a foundation of general knowledge and skills for lifelong learning. Additionally, AUA offers graduate certificates in teaching English as a foreign language, translation, public health, and environmental science and conservation.

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AUA has a diverse faculty representing many different nationalities and cultures, which are key to ensuring excellence in education. Currently, 44% of the faculty are foreign citizens. AUA operates research centres affiliated with each of the Master's programmes, including the Acopian Center for the Environment, the Center for Responsible Mining, and the Digital Library of Classical Armenian Literature. These programmes and

centres are a clear illustration of the value of ties between university and community through the application of knowledge and research. This allows AUA to find solutions to real-world challenges:

- Computer and information science department staff and students have developed a security algorithm for Samsung video devices;
- The cryptography team leads collaborative research projects with NTX Research and the Volkswagen Foundation;
- The School of Public Health works to improve control of tuberculosis among migrant workers.

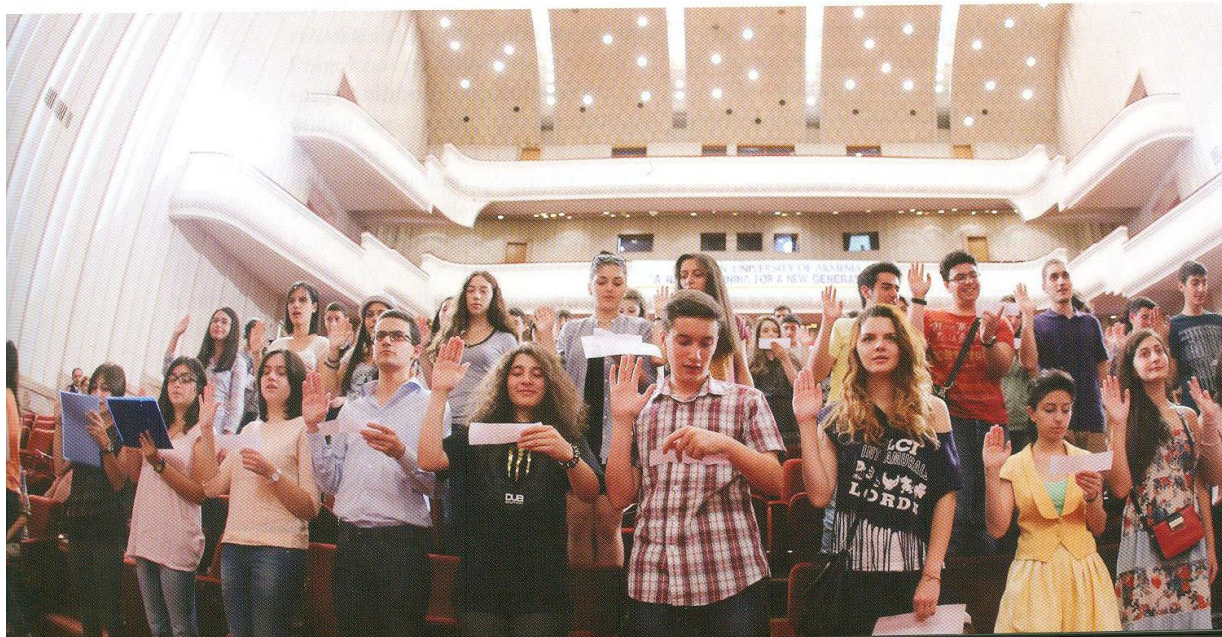
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AUA's Turpanjian Rural Development Program (TRDP) provides educational and economic opportunities to people in rural areas in Armenia and the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. Since 2006, 256 rural businesses – auto repair shops, bakeries, retail stores, internet clubs – have been established and 433 jobs created through TRDP support. AUA's Tur-

panjian Center for Policy Analysis is able to draw on expertise from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences' permanent and visiting staff in its various projects. In addition to its regular researchers, the Center hosts research fellows and visiting scholars from both the United States and Europe. The Center also hires AUA students and graduates as short-term assistants for research projects, thus providing opportunities for direct project participation and analysis.

AUA has a number of other centres which promote wider academic development:

- The Center for Health Services Research and Development is an applied research facility that responds to public health research and development needs in Armenia.
- The Center for Business Research and Development provides hands-on research experience to students, allowing them to apply concepts and



skills learned in the classroom directly to development projects.

- The Engineering Research Center's areas of focus include information technology, cyber security, and artificial intelligence; logistics, scheduling, optimisation, and business process analysis; energy efficiency and renewable energy; computer-aided design and manufacturing; civil and environmental engineering; computational geometry.
- The Legal Resource Center is an integral part of the AUA Master of Laws programme. The two complement each other to promote international standards in legal education and research with a focus on law reform, legal-education reform, and legal information dissemination through public events and online resources.
- The Center for Research in Applied Linguistics provides AUA TEFL students with a unique opportunity to experience teaching and engage in research activity first hand.
- Through research, training, and advocacy the AUA Center for Responsible Mining promotes the cre-

ation and adoption of global best practices in socially, environmentally, and economically responsible mining in Armenia and the South Caucasus region.

- Finally, areas of interest of the AUA Acopian Center for the Environment include environmental policy; sustainable natural resource management; built and natural environment; information technology and the natural environment. In 2013, the Center was appointed as the national coordinator for the "European Breeding Bird Atlas 2" project by the European Bird Census Council. The Center is working on the first ever monitoring atlas on butterflies in Armenia and is developing ecological and ornithological education programmes with local secondary schools. It also partners with the Blacksmith Institute and Armenian government to develop an inventory of toxic waste sites in Armenia.

AGBU-Papazian Library boasts one of the most extensive collections of English-language print and electronic materials in the entire region.

Education and research at AUA are housed in a modern, state-of-the-art campus in the heart of Yerevan. One



of its strongest assets is the AGBU-Papazian Library, which is also open to the public. The library boasts one of the most extensive collections of English-language print and electronic materials in the entire region. AUA's Information and Communication Technologies Services Department provides IT-related strategy, applications, infrastructure, and support services, ensuring that leading-edge technology is readily accessible to staff and students to complement their teaching and learning experiences. It also hosts the VivaCell-MTS

videoconferencing facility for over 60 participants.

AUA Extension holds a unique position in Armenia and the region as a centre for education and training programmes, having served the community for the over 18 years. Close cooperation between AUA Extension and academic and research programmes at the university have resulted in outstanding and sustainable educational offerings to clients across corporate, governmental and non-profit organisations. Furthermore, AUA Extension enrolls thou-

Facts & Figures

- ▶ **Currently 1,200 students from 15 countries study in AUA.**
- ▶ **Tuition fees for international students range from EUR 4,000 to EUR 6,000.**
- ▶ **44% of the faculty are foreign citizens.**

sands of students annually in lifelong learning and certificate courses in Yerevan, Gyumri, Dilijan and Stepanakert.

AUA is a centre of gravity for the local and international academic community, and regularly hosts high-quality academic events. In 2009-2013 AUA hosted many international conferences, including “Reliability and Optimization of Structural Systems”; “Emerging Issues in Environmental and Occupational Health: Mining and Construction in Transition Economies”; “The International Criminal Court and Armenia”; “Crossroads of Psychology and Law”; “Rethinking Values, Norms and Institutions in Armenia” seminar series.

Since 2012, the MA TEFL programme has organised an annual

student research conference with the participation of students from other Armenian universities. The programme hosted the 2010 IATEFL Virtual Conference, one of the most significant events in the TEFL world, and convened the 2009 International Language Assessment Conference, attended by more than 150 international scholars.

The admissions process is the same for all students, regardless of citizenship or country of residence. Since the language of instruction at AUA is English, all applicants must demonstrate sufficient proficiency in English to successfully participate in courses at the university. For Bachelor’s programmes, requirements include a complete application form and official certification of proficiency in English and mathematics.

English-language proficiency is typically demonstrated through TOEFL iBT or IELTS. For Master's studies, depending on the programme, applicants may be required to take the GRE, GMAT or LSAT.

As of autumn 2014, AUA enrolls over 1,200 students from 15 countries in addition to Armenia. Although the majority of the students are from Armenia, an increasing number are coming from abroad, including many diasporan Armenians. For international students, AUA offers the opportunity to experience learning in a fascinating and historically important centre of world civilization. Interaction between local and international students enriches their lives and fosters lifelong friendships. Indeed, international students represent a significant and inseparable

part of the AUA community, contributing to the university's diversity.

International students have the opportunity to obtain a US-accredited education at a fraction of the average US university cost. Tuition fees for international students range from €4000-6000. International students at AUA are also eligible to apply for scholarships, which may cover up to 50% of tuition.

For over a decade, AUA has continued to successfully pursue its ideals of academic freedom, shared governance, social responsibility, interdisciplinary studies, and critical thinking. Imbued with these qualities, AUA graduates go on to assume leadership positions in society and serve as catalysts for positive change and advancement. ■



“ I had never heard about Armenia before, but now I feel like I really belong here. I'm proud to carry AUA's flag with me. I just think everything is possible now. I can do anything and my dreams will come true. Our professors are really engaged and are doing everything possible to make sure that each student leaves AUA with a bright future.”

Laura Vuchase Yenye
Cameron

MA Teaching English as a Foreign Language