



UniCEN
CENTRAL ASIA UNIVERSITY
PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM



Central Asia University Partnerships Program (UniCEN)

Deadline for applications is: 22 May 2020 05:00 PM Eastern Time.

Grant Overview and Eligibility

Purpose of Grants

Funded by the U.S. Embassy in [Tashkent, Uzbekistan](#), the [Central Asia University Partnerships \(UniCEN\)](#) program builds capacity for substantive international engagement between higher education institutions in the United States and Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan). UniCEN supports selected universities across Central Asia to achieve a practical, practicable understanding of the U.S. higher educational system and how to engage successfully. The program emphasizes areas for partnership between the U.S. and Central Asian countries, particularly looking at economic sectors of mutual interest and supporting the development of respective workforces. UniCEN grants will be awarded to U.S. universities to establish partnerships or advance existing collaborations between faculty and administrators at U.S. and Uzbekistan higher education institutions. Administered by [American Councils for International Education \(American Councils\)](#), the grants will advance the following program goals:

1. curriculum, teaching, and assessment methods for improved student outcomes
2. faculty policies, practices, and administrative structure
3. faculty research collaborations for society, economic, and workforce development
4. student exchanges

Eligibility

U.S. university faculty members and administrators are eligible to apply for partnership awards. Projects that advance current U.S.-Uzbekistan university connections or establish new partnerships are encouraged. While projects may involve a consortium of two or more institutions in Uzbekistan, identify one key university partner in Section 4 of this application and define the involvement of the other institutions in the narrative.

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Awards

Three types of UniCEN grants will be awarded to U.S. universities in the areas of:

- Faculty Small Grants (up to \$5,000) to support U.S. faculty to teach discipline-specific courses (master classes) at universities in Uzbekistan to enhance pedagogy and curriculum in priority areas, including (but not limited to) tourism management, digital economy, archaeology, water resources, medicine, media and multimedia, IT, agriculture, business education, etc. Grant applications may comprise travel funding and stipend for short-term visits of 5-14 days. A total of five awards will be granted in this category.
- Partnership Seed Grants (up to \$22,000) to support catalyzing additional relationships between U.S. international administrators and faculty with Uzbekistan counterparts. Grant applications may comprise travel funding, conference fees, materials, and related expenses to support two-way exchanges of administrators, faculty, and/or students. A total of five awards will be granted in this category.
- Project Grants (up to \$40,000) to support capacity building for long-term projects with broader economic and social impact (e.g., establishing a joint research center, overhauling a major or discipline, launching new exchange programs, internationalizing accreditation, building online and distance education). Grant applications may comprise travel funding, conference fees, materials, and related expenses to support two-way exchanges of administrators, faculty, and/or students. A total of one award will be granted in this category.

U.S. higher education institutions may submit more than one proposal, but no U.S. higher education institution will receive more than one award. Projects may involve a consortium of more than one Uzbek and/or other Central Asian institution. Awards are expected to begin in September 2020 and may be implemented through June 30, 2021.

Criteria for Evaluation

American Councils will notify applicants on awards by July 1, 2020. American Councils will evaluate applications based on:

1. Project concept (including readiness of partners to engage virtually and use online tools and resources)
2. Personnel (including experience and engagement in Uzbekistan or Central Asia; international experience)
3. Impact and sustainability
4. Budget

Questions?

Contact Adrian Erlinger, Senior Program Manager, Innovation and Capacity Building at: aerlinger@americancouncils.org and Ksenia Ivanenko, Senior Program Officer, University Partnerships at kivanenko@americancouncils.org

About the U.S. Partner Applicant

U.S. Partner University

University Name

Primary Contact

Your Name:

First Name Middle Name Last Name

School Department

Job Title

Mailing Address

Address Line 1:
Address Line 2 (optional):
City:
State:
ZIP Code:

Primary Email Address

Alternate Email Address

Telephone(s)

Telephone Number Telephone Type

1 Primary Alternate

About the Central Asia Partner

Partner University in Uzbekistan

University Name

Primary Contact

Uzbekistan Contact's Name:

First/Given Name

Middle Name/Patronymic

Last/Family Name

School Department

Job Title

Primary Email

Alternate Email

Telephone Number Telephone Type

1

Primary Alternate

About the Proposal

Title of Project

Area(s) of Proposed Activity

- Curriculum, teaching, and assessment methods for improved student outcomes
- Faculty policies, practices, and administrative structure
- Faculty research and workforce development
- Student exchanges

Type of Proposed Activity

- Faculty small grants
- Partnership seed grants
- Project grants

Project Start Date

Project End Date

Proposal Information: Project Concept

Present the activities, outcomes, and objectives for the proposed project. Describe the relevance and significance of the proposed project and how it will advance partnership between your institution and a partner in Uzbekistan. Provide the planned project timeline and how deliverables will be met. Be sure to describe how the project meets the areas of proposed activity (curriculum development; faculty policies, practices, and administrative structure; faculty research and workforce development; student exchanges). Preference will be given to projects that integrate a virtual or online component for collaboration and exchange.

Proposal Information: Personnel

Explain the background of the key personnel. Include any previous experience in Uzbekistan or Central Asia, international activity, and/or its relevance to broader international initiatives at your institution. Please describe your preliminary discussions with your potential university partner and define the responsibilities of the U.S. and Uzbekistan personnel involved in the project. Preference will be given to projects that clearly state the involvement of the partner institutions beyond the direct project implementors.

Proposal Information: Impact and Sustainability

Describe the broad impact of the project including plans for monitoring activities, mechanisms to measure progress and success, virtual and online knowledge exchange, outcomes or end products, and sustainability of follow-on activities after the project's end. Describe how the project will contribute to substantive international engagement and strengthen partnerships in your particular field, and higher education between the U.S. and Uzbekistan.

Budget

Using the UniCEN budget template (download the Microsoft Excel file below), prepare a tabular budget with specific line items for the project (e.g., airfare, lodging and per diem, ground transportation, visa fees, materials, salary, honoraria, interpreters and conference fees). While administrative or indirect costs are allowed, American Councils strongly encourages applicants to waive or reduce administrative or indirect costs so that it would provide a maximum level of project support. Cost-share from the U.S. and Uzbekistan institutions is encouraged, and preference will be given to proposals that list indirect costs as cost-share. Include a brief narrative justification of each budget item in the template.

For more information about allowable expenses, consult the [U.S. Department of State, Office of Allowances, Foreign Per Diem Rates by Location \(https://aoprals.state.gov/web920/per_diem.asp\)](https://aoprals.state.gov/web920/per_diem.asp)

[Download Budget Template](#)

Upload Budget Spreadsheet

Upload CVs and Letter of Support

Upload CVs

Upload CV Whose CV is this?

1

Letter of Support

Include a brief, one(1)-page letter of support from the Uzbekistan partner(s) to indicate commitment and support for the project, including readiness of the Uzbekistan partner(s) to use a variety of online resources and willingness to cooperate on virtual instruction and information exchange. The letter should reference the proposed project and Uzbekistan point of contact.

Upload Letter of Support

Review, Certify, and Submit

Certification

Please read this statement and indicate your certification below:

I certify that:

- I completed this application;
- Everything in this application is complete and true to the best of my knowledge; and
- I understand that my application is in no way an offer or a guarantee of an offer for a Central Asia University Partnership Program grant.

Certified by:
