

Central Asia University Partnerships Program (UniCEN)

Grant Overview and Eligibility

Purpose of Grants

Funded by the U.S. Embassy in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, the Central Asia University Partnerships (UniCEN) 2021-2022 Central Asia University Partnerships Program builds capacity for substantive international engagement between higher education institutions (HEIs) in the United States and Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan).

Administered by American Councils for International Education (American Councils), UniCEN will select and award partnership grants to increase the quality and sustainability of university linkages between Central Asia and the United States to jointly address United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). The five priority SDGs for the UniCEN program are clean water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy; decent work and economic growth; responsible consumption and production; and climate action.

Partnership grants will meet one of the three key objectives of UniCEN:

1. Enhance teaching and learning capacities by modernizing curriculum and developing jointly taught courses in five priority UN SDGs at Central Asian universities.
2. Increase research capacities at Central Asian and U.S. universities in five priority UN SDGs through the creation of regional "knowledge hubs".
3. Strengthen institutional capacity to support long-term partnerships between U.S. and Central Asian universities with economic-based outcomes.

Eligibility

U.S. faculty members and administrators from higher education institutions (universities and community colleges) are eligible to apply for partnership grants that deepen existing or establish new U.S.-Central Asian university partnerships. American Councils encourages the creation of "knowledge hubs" or consortia that involve multiple Central Asian universities. Partnership projects involving higher education institutions from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are especially encouraged.

Partnership grants will cover international and domestic travel, conference fees, materials, supplies, salary, honoraria, and other direct costs associated with carrying out partnership activity. While grants will be administered directly to U.S. HEIs to ensure proper financial and narrative reporting, funds may be transferred to Central Asian HEIs to support activities and incentivize partnerships.

American Councils will support matchmaking among interested institutions of higher education in Central Asia.

Awards

Ten (10) partnership grants to accomplish project goals and objectives will be awarded. Selected finalists will be awarded a \$24,000 project grant to cover salary or honoraria, international and domestic travel, conference fees, materials, supplies, and other allowable costs associated with carrying out partnership activity. All grants will be awarded to U.S. higher education institutions and administered by principal investigators working closely with Offices of Sponsored Research to ensure reporting and program compliance. U.S. higher education institutions may submit more than one proposal, but individual applicants are not encouraged to submit more than one application.

Applicants will be notified of selection by mid-December 2021, and selected grants will be expected to accept awards and begin project implementation in early January 2022. Partnership projects should be implemented through September 30, 2022.

Criteria for Evaluation

Successful projects will demonstrate how activities will achieve and measure program objectives (e.g., joint research publications, conference presentations, faculty and student exchanges, joint workshops, trainings, and new joint proposals submitted to national and international funding agencies). Due to ongoing uncertainties around international travel restrictions, partners are expected to conduct synchronous and asynchronous virtual engagement activities throughout the course of their projects and consider implementation of virtual student and faculty exchange models.

Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

About the Central Asia Partners

Primary University Name

Country the partner university is in

Primary Contact

Primary Contact's Name:

First/Given Name

Middle Name/Patronymic

Last/Family Name

School Department

Job Title

Primary Email

Telephone(s)

#	Telephone Number	Telephone Type
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1		<input type="radio"/> Primary <input type="radio"/> Alternate
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Secondary Partner University in Central Asia

Secondary University Name

Country secondary university is in

Secondary Contact's Name

School Department

Job Title

Secondary Contact Email Address

Telephone Number

Tertiary Partner University in Central Asia

Tertiary University Name

Country tertiary university is in

Tertiary Contact's Name

School Department

Job Title

Tertiary Contact Email Address

Telephone Number

About the Proposal

Title of Project

UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)

- Clean water and sanitation
- Affordable and clean energy
- Decent work and economic growth
- Responsible consumption and production
- Climate action
- Other

Project Start Date

Project End Date

Proposal Information: Project Concept

Present the activities, outcomes, and objectives for the proposed project.

Proposal Information: Personnel and Experience

Explain the background of the key personnel.

Proposal Information: Monitoring & Evaluation for Impact and Sustainability

Download M&E Template

Describe how you plan to monitor and evaluate performance and outcomes (results) of the proposed project. .

Budget

Using the budget template (download the Microsoft Excel file below), prepare a detailed budget with specific line items for the project aligned with allowable budget categories (e.g., personnel, travel, materials, and other costs). Explain how you have arrived at all amounts to determine that costs are allowable, reasonable, and allocable. All budget items must include a brief narrative justification that corresponds with the proposal narrative. Cost-share from the U.S. and Central Asian institutions is highly encouraged, and *preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate a significant reduction or waiver of indirect or administrative costs as a form of cost-share.*

Lodging and meals rates must not exceed U.S. Department of State, Office of Allowances, Foreign Per Diem Rates by Location (https://aoprals.state.gov/web920/per_diem.asp). International flights are subject to the Fly America Act

Download Budget Template

Upload Budget Spreadsheet

Upload Supporting Documents

Upload CVs

Upload CV **Whose CV is this?**

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Letter of Support

Include a brief, one (1)-page letter of support from the Central Asian partner(s) that indicates commitment and support for the project, including readiness of the Central Asian 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 Central Asian primary point of contact.

Upload Letter of Support

M&E Template

Upload M&E Template

Supplemental Documentation

Upload Supplemental Items

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: