

**Academy Abroad: Armenian Society, Politics and Religion between Soviet Legacy and Modernization**

**June 26 - July 5, 2024**

**Yerevan, Armenia**

The Academy will gather 16 students from Swiss universities and offer a comprehensive set of activities allowing the participants to acquire knowledge on the political, social, cultural and economic life of Armenia, the broader region, and the post-Soviet Eurasian area in the global context.

The School will consist of three interconnected components (1) Armenia proper; (2) the region of South Caucasus and adjacent, neighboring states including Iran, Turkey and Middle East; and (3) Armenia’s involvement with Russia and in larger Eurasian and global geopolitics. Each of the three components will include lectures by academics and political experts, discussions, and out-of-campus visits that will allow to expand the received knowledge.

Tours to museums and places of historical and cultural interest will include: Matenadaran (Museum of ancient manuscripts) and Armenian Genocide museum, Haghartsin, Goshavank, Sevan lake, Garni, Geghard, Echmiadzin Church center, Metsamor, Yezidi temple complex.

The event is sponsored by the Swiss Study Foundation and the Center for Civilization and Cultural Studies, Yerevan State University.

The venue of the School:

**Yerevan State University, Faculty of Foreign Languages,** **First floor, Room 119, Center for Civilization and Cultural Studies**

(the venue is 5 minutes walking distance from the Guest House).

**SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM (status: June 18)**

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| **June 25 Tue** | **Flight departs from Zurich airport at 18:45**  **(connecting flight in Vienna)** | |
| **June 26 Wed morning** | **Arrival at 03:55 at Yerevan airport** | |
| 9:00 | Breakfast at the guesthouse (optional) | |
| 12:30 | lunch at the guesthouse | |
| **June 26 Wed afternoon** | **Introduction to Armenia** | |
|  | Students have time to make money exchanges | |
| 15:00-15:30 | Opening remarks | **Mikayel Hovhannisyan**  *Vice Rector for Development and Innovation, Yerevan State University* |
| 15:30-17:00 | Armenian identification through narratives of history and culture | **Alen Shadunts,**  *Lecturer, American University of Armenia* |
| 17:10-18:30 | Armenia and South Caucasus in the global geopolitical context | **Tigran Yepremyan,**  *Dean, Department of International Relations, Yerevan State University* |
| 19:00 | Dinner | guesthouse |
| **June 27 Thu** | **Armenia’s national standing: history and current choices** | |
| 9:00 | Breakfast | |
| 10:00 - 11:30 | Pilgrims, Migrants and Memories in Armenia: An Anthropologist's View | **Konrad Siekierski,**  *Lecturer, Catholic University of Budapest* |
| 11:30-13:00 | Three Armenian republics, 1918-2024 | **Tigran Matosyan,**  *Assistant Professor, American University of Armenia* |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | Lunch | guesthouse |
| 15:00 - 16:30 | Visiting *Matenadaran,* the Museum of ancient manuscripts,  53 Mashtots Ave, about 20 min walking distance from the university | |
| 16:30-18:30 | guided city tour including Cascade Complex, Republic Square, The Opera House. Start at the Matenadaran. | |
| after 18:30 | free time: students choose individually where they want to have dinner | |
| **June 28 Fri** | **Dynamics of the Post-Soviet space** | |
| 9:00 | Breakfast | |
| 10:00-11:30 | The Ghost of Empire and Decolonization in the Former Soviet Space | **Alexander Agadjanian,**  *Professor, Yerevan State University* |
| 11:40-13:00 | Russia in the Caucasus: history and today | **Narek Sukiasyan**  *Researcher, Center for Culture and Civilization Studies, Yerevan State University* |
| 13:00-14:00 | Lunch | guesthouse |
| 14:00-14:30 | Transfer by University bus | From the guesthouse |
| 14:30-16:30 | Visiting Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute | **Edita Gzoyan,**  *Director* |
| 16:30 | Transfer by University bus back to guesthouse |  |
| 18:00 | Dinner at Pandok ("Yerevan Tavern") restaurant | 91 Teryan Street (within walking distance of guesthouse) |
| **June 29 Sat** | **One-day-tour (guided)** | |
| 08:00 | Breakfast | |
| 09:00 - ca. 19:00 | Garni temple - Geghard monastery - Sevanavank - Dilijan - Haghartsin Monastery - Goshavank Monastery | |
| **June 30 Sun** | **half-day-tour (guided)** | |
| 08:00 | Breakfast | |
| 09:00 - ca. 16:00 | Metsamor - Ziarat Yazidi temple - Etchmiadzin | |
| lunch | Lunch packages provided by guesthouse | |
| afternoon | Free time | |
| **July 1 Mon** | **Aspects of Armenian society and culture** | |
| 9:00 | Breakfast | |
| 10:00-11:20 | Armenian society and religion: Soviet and post-Soviet periods | **Yulia Antonyan,**  *Associate Professor, Yerevan State U* |
| 11:30-13:00 | Civil society in Armenia | **Valentina Gevorgyan,**  *Assistant Professor, Yerevan State University* |
| 13:00-14:00 | Lunch | guesthouse |
| 14:00-15:30 | Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) and its significance in recent Armenian history, 1988-2024 | **Gor Petrosyan**  *Lecturer, Yerevan state University* |
| 15:40-17:00 | Armenian contemporary art | **Vigen Galstyan** |
| after 17:00 | free time |  |
| **July 2 Tue** | **Armenia and its neighborhood** | |
| 9:00 | Breakfast | |
| 10:00-11:00 | Armenia within the regional structure. | **Hayk Kocharyan**  *Head, Chair of Arabic Studies,**Yerevan State University* |
| 11:15-13:00 | Armenia and its direct neighborhood: Turkey, Iran, Georgia and Azerbaijan | **David Hovhanissyan,**  *Center for Culture and Civilization Studies, Yerevan State University*  **Anna Gevorgyan**  *Center for Culture and Civilization Studies, Yerevan State University* |
| 13:00-14:00 | Lunch | guesthouse |
| 14:30-16:00 | Internal discussion | in the guesthouse |
| 16:00 | Transfer by university bus | From the guesthouse |
| 16:30-18:30 | Visit to the Eurasia Partnership Foundation;  Lecture by G. Ter-Gabrielyan: *Contemporary Armenian literature* | **Gevorg Ter-Gabrielyan**  *Director, Eurasia Partnership Foundation*  **Vazgen Karapetyan**  *Associate Director, Eurasia Partnership Foundation* |
| 19:30 | Dinner | guesthouse |
| **July 3 Wed** | **Armenia in the global geopolitical context** | |
| 9:00 | Breakfast | |
| 10:00- 11:15 | The Caucasus real and imagined | **Alexander Iskandaryan**  *Director, Caucasus Institute* |
| 11:30-12:30 | Global actors and global projects in the region | **Benyamin Poghosyan**  *Center for Political and Economic Strategic Studies* |
| 12:30-13:30 | Lunch | guesthouse |
| 14:00-16:00 | Visit to Cultural & Social Narratives Laboratory, presentation of projects and programs | **Tigran Amiryan**  *Co-founder and president, Cultural & Social Narratives Laboratory* |
| 16:30 – 18:00 | Visit to Swiss embassy  (30 minutes input by Amb. Rosenkreuz, 60 minutes Q&A) | **Lukas Rosenkranz**  *Ambassador of Switzerland to Armenia / Head of Mission*  moderator: Nathan Ganser |
| 18:00 – 18:30 | Walking back to guesthouse |  |
| 18:30 | Dinner | guesthouse |
| **July 4 Thu** | **Visits and discussions** | |
| 9:00 | Breakfast | |
| 9:30 | Walking to the CivilNet News agency | |
| 10:00-12:00 | Visit to CivilNet News Agency | **Karen Harutyunyan**  *Editor-in-chief, CivilNet News Agency* |
| 12:30-13:30 | Lunch | guesthouse |
| 13:45-17:00 | presentations of students, Q & A | **Alexander Agadjanian,** *Yerevan State University*  **Ansgar Jödicke,** *University of Fribourg* |
| 19:00 | Dinner at Rehan | 46/1 Isahakyan Street (within walking distance from guesthouse) |
| 23:00 | Booked taxi departs at 23:00 from guesthouse to the airport | group leader: Gohar Tamrazyan |
| **July 5 Fri early morning** | **Flight departs at 01:45 at Yerevan airport (connecting flight in Brussels). Arrives 08:10 at Zurich airport** | |