



O‘ZBEKISTON RESPUBLIKASI TURIZM VA MADANIY MEROS VAZIRLIGI
MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

100084, Toshkent shahri, Amir Temur shoh ko‘chasi, 107B-uy
Telefon: (71) 205-06-00, (71) 200-00-88, e-mail: info@motach.uz, motach@exat.uz

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Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria
in the Republic of Uzbekistan

The Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Uzbekistan extends its greetings to the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Republic of Uzbekistan and has honor to inform you on the following.

In 2018, at the Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Qingdao, China, H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan, initiated the establishment of “**Silk Road**” **International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage** in the ancient city of Samarkand. The University is a leading institution in Uzbekistan, preparing qualified professionals in the fields of tourism, cultural heritage, museum management and creative industries.

In order to further expand cooperation in education sector and strengthen mutual diplomatic ties between SCO member states, observer states and dialogue partners, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan awarded **85 educational grants** for graduate programmes at the “Silk Road” University. Taking into consideration the importance of bilateral relations between governments, the University is planning to award **2 grant** places (*1 for Spring semester 2023 and 1 for Fall semester 2023*) to outstanding candidates from Bulgaria. Applications for Spring semester 2023 (*classes start in February*) are accepted until January 20, 2023 and July 1, 2023 for the Fall semester 2023 (*classes start in September*).

As such, we kindly ask for your assistance in facilitating the selection process (*among relevant organisations*) and receiving a list of potential candidates from Bulgaria willing to study in one of the graduate programs at “Silk Road” International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage (*Application guidelines are attached*).

The Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Uzbekistan takes this opportunity once again to express its gratitude to the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Republic of Uzbekistan for its close cooperation and hopes for continuation of partnership in the future.

Appendix: ___ lists.

Kind regards,

Aziz Abdukhakimov

Minister of Tourism and Cultural Heritage
of the Republic of Uzbekistan

№	APPLICATION GUIDELINE
I.	<p data-bbox="328 257 1495 342">“Silk Road” International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage in Samarkand city:</p> <p data-bbox="328 367 1495 577">Samarkand is one of the most ancient cities of Uzbekistan. The city is rich with various monuments of cultural heritage and archeological objects. In particular, the complex of Imam Bukhari, Registan Square, Mirzo Ulugbek madrasah, Afrosiyab museum and other cultural heritage sites are located in Samarkand.</p> <p data-bbox="328 584 1495 837">The contemporary International Tourist Center “Great Silk Road” opened in August, 2022, which defines the face of New Samarkand. The multifunctional center includes 8 modern hotels, a Congress hall, the “Eternal City” complex, an amphitheater and many other facilities. It can serve 2 million tourists a year. A Summit of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization was held there.</p> <p data-bbox="328 844 1495 965">Also in 2023, Samarkand will become the world’s tourist center. The 25th session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) will be held in 2023 in Samarkand.</p> <p data-bbox="890 972 943 994" style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p data-bbox="328 1014 1495 1180">“Silk Road” International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage in Samarkand is the first state University with English as the main language of instruction. Leading international professors and tutors are invited to conduct various training and capacity building programmes.</p> <p data-bbox="328 1187 1495 1267">The aim of the University is to train highly qualified personnel in the field of tourism, archeology and cultural heritage.</p> <p data-bbox="328 1274 1495 1395">The University closely cooperates with leading educational institutions in Asia, Europe, America and other countries across research, innovation as well as in implementing joint projects.</p> <p data-bbox="328 1402 1495 1738">University students study in a state of the art “Smart campus” with the first practical HoReCa Academy in the country. Special attention should be paid to the educational and production complex, which includes simulation hotel rooms, a bar-restaurant, a Conference hall for 250 people equipped with advanced technologies, a universal gym, a swimming pool, as well as a digital library (<i>with more than 25 000 books</i>), acting as a fully-fledged high-tech center for tourism knowledge (<i>details about the University at this link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQb3RfUv4GPAX890Za7b5Jw</i>).</p> <p data-bbox="328 1744 1495 1910">Since 2021, the University started receiving state grants from the government of Uzbekistan for foreign students. This initiative aims to strengthen academic ties across tourism and cultural heritage, as well as facilitate cultural and educational exchange between SCO countries.</p> <p data-bbox="328 1917 1495 2123">The University attracted more than 15 foreign professors and teachers who worked in foreign higher educational institutions (<i>USA, China, Japan, India, Australia, Italy, Turkey</i>) in order to provide high level of education. Among them prof. Joseph Hoffman from USA and prof. Tongqian Zou from China have been working as Vice-Rectors at the “Silk Road” University.</p>

II.	<p>Available fields of the University for Master's degree program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Logistics in tourism; ➤ Tourism (<i>by field of activity</i>); ➤ Museum Studies; ➤ Management of cultural heritage; ➤ Creative industry; ➤ Archeology.
III.	<p>Required documents for application:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identity document (<i>passport/ID card</i>); 2. Bachelor's degree diploma; 3. Photo 3x4; 4. CV of the applicant (<i>contacts and e-mail of applicant for further connection</i>); 5. Language proficiency certificate (<i>IELTS – 6.0, CEFR – B2, TOEFL iBM – 72 score</i>); 6. Essay (<i>plans after graduation, on the topic of “Contributing to the development of tourism of the SCO countries”, 1-1,5 pages length</i>). <p><i>Note: Applicants must upload electronic copies of the above-mentioned documents at the website of the admissions office: http://admissions.univ-silkroad.uz</i></p>
IV.	<p style="text-align: center;">Application procedure and period for <u>Spring Semester</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application submission deadline - 20th of January, 2023; 2. Interview (<i>online</i>) with applicant starts from 21st January to 30th of January 2023 (<i>regularly check e-mail for online interview invitation link</i>); 3. Based on Admission decision, additional test could be requested from the applicant (<i>regularly check e-mail</i>); 4. Results announcement starts from 31st January to 5th February of 2023 (<i>regularly check e-mail for results and official website of admission commission</i>); 5. Visa application process starts from 1st of February 2023 (<i>Enrolment to the University starts from 27th of February 2023</i>). <p style="text-align: center;">Application procedure and period for <u>Fall Semester</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application submission deadline 1st of July, 2023; 2. Interview (<i>online</i>) with applicant starts from 1st to 15th of July 2023 (<i>regularly check e-mail for online interview invitation link</i>); 3. Based on Admission decision, additional test could be requested from the applicant (<i>regularly check e-mail</i>); 4. Results announcement starts from 16th to 20th of July 2023 (<i>regularly check e-mail for results and official website of admission commission</i>);

	<p>5. Visa application process starts from 20th of July 2023 (<i>Enrolment to the University starts from 4th of September 2023</i>).</p>
V.	<p>The following expenses are covered by the grant:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On the basis of this state grant, successful applicants from the SCO member states, observer countries, partners in dialogue and states wishing to join will be provided with one return economy class air ticket for travel to Uzbekistan every year; 2. Each grant holder will receive a stipend in the amount of the equivalent of 500 USD per month, for dormitory expenses in the amount of the equivalent of 100 USD per month; 3. Twice a year trips to the ancient cities of Uzbekistan will be organized to acquaint students with the historical cities, rich architecture, local customs and traditions of Uzbekistan. To cover the travel expenses, each grant holder will be allocated with the equivalent of 100 USD, for each travel time.
VI.	<p>Website and official pages of the university on social media:</p> <p>Website: https://univ-silkroad.uz/ru Telegram channel: https://t.me/univ_silkroad_uz Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/univsilkroad.uz Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/univ_silkroad_uz Twitter: https://twitter.com/univsilkroad</p>
VII.	<p>Additional information and contacts:</p> <p>For further details and questions, please do not hesitate to contact to Irina Muhamednazarova, Head of Department of International students and teachers affairs of the University and Akbar Abdukhalilov chief specialist of Department of International students and teachers affairs of the University. <i>mobile: (+99890) 270-25-28, (+99893) 665-09-55.</i> <i>e-mail: admission@univ-silkroad.uz, admission@univ-silkroad.uz.</i></p>