

World Cultures and Global Issues in Education



Maymester in Baku, Azerbaijan
May 10-June 2, 2008
Clemson University



Overview: 2008 is the pilot year for this exceptional study abroad program based in Baku, Azerbaijan. Baku, the capital city of the former Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, is a city of approximately 2 ½ million residents and is located on the coast of the Caspian Sea. Students in this study abroad program will be placed in a classroom with Azeri teachers and students in schools in Baku. Education field experiences can be met through field placements available from grades 1 through 11. This program provides a rare opportunity for an authentic and meaningful global experience through exposure to a post-Soviet era educational system.

Course Credit: Several options for course credit (undergraduate and graduate) are available for 6 semester hours. Students can register for EDSEC 326/ ED 438 (undergraduate) or ED 738 (graduate), International Field Experience. Students will also register for ED 439 (undergraduate) or ED 739 (graduate), World Cultures and Global Issues in Education. Graduating seniors may qualify for graduate credit.

Language: Participation in this program does not require knowledge of Russian or Azeri languages. In school placements, participants will likely frequently work with Azeri teachers of English or Azeri teachers who speak English, although classes are taught in Azeri. A basic introduction to Azeri will be provided to students during the pre-departure orientation sessions in the spring semester.

Activities: Through this field-based program, students will observe teaching in Azerbaijan, analyze different approaches to teaching and learning, participate in cultural experiences, and travel to different cities in the area. In addition to daily morning field placements in Baku public school classrooms, and afternoon individual and small-group assignments and projects, students will also travel to various informal educational settings, such as a leisure class, an orphanage, public libraries, and Baku State University.

In addition to school-related experiences, students will be involved in cultural activities and travel throughout the three-week experience. The local cultural sites that students will visit include, but are not limited to: a Zoroastrian Temple (the Ateshguyah Fire-Worshippers' Temple), the ancient Gobustan caves dating to around 3000 B.C.E., 12th century C.E. Absheron Peninsula Castles and Towers, the Shirvanshah Palace, and the Azerbaijan State Museum of Art.

Faculty: Three faculty members from the Department of Teacher Education at Clemson University will lead this program. Dr. Agida Manizade is originally from Azerbaijan and has taught in Baku schools. Dr. Megan Che has traveled abroad

extensively, conducting research and teaching in schools in sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Mindy Spearman has worked as an archaeologist on sites in North Africa, Europe, and post-Soviet Republics.

Tentative Dates: May 10 through June 2, 2008. Arrangements may be made for graduating students wishing to attend commencement ceremonies.

Estimated Cost: Costs may vary depending on fluctuations in airfare, exchange rate, and so on. However, the estimated cost for each student taking 6 credit hours (tuition is calculated at the in-state rate plus 10% for all students participating in study abroad programs) is approximately \$5100, which includes round-trip airfare, tuition, meals, lodging, excursions, and all fees. This cost also includes a \$500 scholarship given to students participating in this program in its pilot year. This cost (\$5100) does not include personal spending money. The study abroad office at Clemson University offers additional merit- and need-based scholarships for study abroad participants. For more information, contact 656-2457.

Accommodations: Lodging includes furnished apartments. Students will live together in groups of 4 in two-bedroom apartments in the downtown area (center of the city). These apartments have dial-up internet access. A chauffer-driven chartered bus will provide students with all necessary transportation throughout the three week program, including: airport transportation, transportation to and from school placement sites, Saturday excursions and weekend trips to cultural sites.

Requirements for Participation: Students must submit a written application along with letters of recommendation to be considered for this program. Clemson University students must be in good academic standing and able to commit to several pre-departure orientation sessions which will include assignments and language classes. Personal interviews with the program directors will be conducted to screen applicants.

For More Information: Students interested in applying for this study abroad program should contact

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