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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

June 9, 2010

### **Journalists Can Study in Georgia via Embassy-Backed Program: Apply Now**

The Khazar University, the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA) and the United States Embassy in Baku are collecting applications for the master's degree program in journalism and media management by the Caucasus School of Journalism and Media Management. The program will accept four Azerbaijani students, who will study in Baku and Tbilisi in academic years 2010-12. Journalism will be taught by instructors from the United States, European Union, Georgia and Azerbaijan. Faculty and curriculum for the School will be provided in cooperation with the International Center for Journalists, a Washington-based journalistic association, and Louisiana State University Manship School of Communication. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of State, with supplementary funding from the Open Society Institute.

The overall goal of the program is to strengthen the media in the emerging democratic societies of the Caucasus.

Every year, the program accepts 25 students in a region-wide competition from among professional journalists and university graduates in a variety of other disciplines. The curriculum will be based on a hands-on, experiential approach to learning the latest techniques of fact-based, professional reporting and writing in both print and broadcast media. There will also be an emphasis on management techniques and key knowledge fields, such as economics and the judiciary. Students will have access to computer, audio and video equipment, the Internet, and a journalism library. The program will produce a student newspaper, *Brosse Street Journal*, in print and electronic versions and air reports to Radio GIPA FM.

Language of instruction is English and Azerbaijani.

The program will be offered in four semesters from October 2010 to May 2012. 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> semesters of the program will be held in Baku, in cooperation with the Khazar University and other media organizations. All students will study in Georgia for 11 months in 2011 (January to December) and return there for the defense of a thesis/ final project in May 2012.

Tuition is required. U.S. Embassy in Baku will provide tuition support and financial assistance for the duration of studies in Georgia upon well substantiated request.

Entrance procedures are: English language testing (TOEFL), essay writing (in Azerbaijani) and an interview (in English-language) with an Azerbaijani-American admissions committee in Baku. Deadline for application is September 1, 2010.

For more information and for submitting applications, contact:

**Ilgar Khudiyev, program representative, at [ixudiyev@yahoo.com](mailto:ixudiyev@yahoo.com) or 050 319-66-80 (cell).**

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*What is what:*

The Georgian Institute of Public Affairs, established in 1994, is a non-governmental, non-profit educational institution, raising a cadre of highly trained public servants and journalists to support democratic and market reforms in Caucasus.

Caucasus School of Journalism and Media Management (CSJMM) was established in 2001 to support the development of independent media in the Caucasus by means of educational and training programs in journalism, communication and media management. The school's philosophy is that journalists -- well grounded in skills to report fairly and accurately -- will raise the level of journalism where they practice, and will serve the public by providing truthful information and upholding the highest ethical standards of the profession.

Since its opening in January 2002, CSJMM's English-language, regional program graduated 107 students with master's degrees in journalism and media management. In Azerbaijan, CSJMM has graduates, who hold leading positions in the professional media. Overall employment rate is 87%. The graduates today are well-established journalists committed to the principles of fairness, independence, honesty and accuracy in their work for newspapers, television and radio. The biggest employers of Azerbaijani graduates are: 1News, Turan, APA News agencies, ANS TV and ANS Press, Caspian Business News, Hesabat magazine, BBC Monitoring, Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty's Azerbaijani and Russian Services.

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