

## **Call for Participation**

### **in the project "The Network on International Education in South Caucasus and Central Asia at the Intersection of Educational Spaces" (NIE-SCCA-EdSp)"**

### **in 2026**

Students of Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg in Teacher Education or in a Bachelor/Master/PhD programme with a major in education focus are invited to gain international experience in the project "The Network on International Education in South Caucasus and Central Asia at the Intersection of Educational Spaces" (NIE-SCCA-EdSp)".

#### **About the Project**

The project aims to promote university cooperation and intercultural dialogue between Germany and the countries in the post-Soviet Islamic region of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in the field of international education. The project developed by the research and teaching unit Diversity Education and International Educational Research at Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) in cooperation with Abai Kazakh National Pedagogical University (KazNPU), Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University (ASPU), Fergana State University (FSU), Kyrgyz National University (KNU). The project is funded by the DAAD with funds from the Federal Foreign Office (AA) within the framework of the programme "Higher Education Dialogue with the Muslim World".

The project explores the challenges and developments in international education arising from the dynamic positioning of the South Caucasus and Central Asia within a field of tension shaped by diverse cultural, political, and economic influences. It addresses these issues across various levels and sectors of education by strengthening research capacities, supporting early-career academics, developing innovative teaching programmes at partner universities, advancing the so-called third mission (societal impact, knowledge transfer, etc.), and fostering cultural dialogue.

Students and doctoral candidates work on individual projects (e.g., seminar or module papers, or Bachelor's, Master's, or PhD theses) related to the project topic in multinational groups composed of participants from the involved countries. They apply an international comparative perspective to their work, develop their international and intercultural competences, develop personal and professional networks, and gain insights into the cultures of the partner countries.

The thematic areas in which participants may engage include:

- a) international education in schools
- b) international education in non-formal education (e.g., youth work)
- c) international education in vocational education
- d) international education in higher education

or a cross-sectoral topic:

- e) international education in diasporas and transnational communities
- f) language and international co-operation.

The project is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) with funds from the Federal Foreign Office as part of the program "Higher Education Dialogue with the Muslim World".

The preference will be given to applicants for the participation in the thematic group "International Education in Vocational education".

Further information about the project: <https://www.interedu.phil.fau.eu/research/projects/current-projects/nie-scca-edsp/>

### Project Activities 2025 and Funding

Project members from the participating countries will meet regularly in online workshops (approx. once per month) and visit the partner universities. Project members will receive financial support for travel and accommodation from the project funds.

1. Study visit to the Abai Kazakh National Pedagogical University (KazNPU) (tentative dates 6-12. April 2026)
2. Participation in the workshops and the conference with project participants from partner countries during their visit to Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (tentative dates 25 – 31. Mai 2026)

### Who can apply?

Students of Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg in Teacher Education or in a Bachelor/Master/PhD programme with a focus on educational studies and interests in internationalisation of education.

### Selection Criteria

- Excellent academic performance
- good English language skills and the motivation to improve the English language skills
- motivation: a) interest in international education and b) a planned or ongoing seminar paper, admission/bachelor/master/PhD thesis related to one of the project's thematic foci.

*The steering groups ensures that women and men are appropriately represented at all qualification levels and that female students and academics are not disadvantaged in the selection process for stays abroad (for example, due to family commitments) or are specifically recruited for project groups and supported accordingly.*

### How to apply?

Please send until 28 January 2026

- a letter of motivation in English (1 page, including the information about the topic of your interest in the project related to your (planned) seminar paper or bachelor/master/PhD thesis)
- a current record of your academic performance
- a certificate of matriculation or other confirmation of your status as student/ PhD student

to the project assistant: Joanna Dudek ([joanna.dudek@fau.de](mailto:joanna.dudek@fau.de)).