My name is Anar Taghiyev and I am responsible for the development of international partnerships as well as program development at Qafqaz University (QU).

On behalf of QU Vice-Rectorate for External Affairs we would like to emphasize our interest in prospective collaboration ideas focusing on Tempus (especially concentrating on structural measures and governance reforms) and Erasmus Mundus partnerships. Over the years QU has developed strong experience in terms of project management, program development; and pioneers to shift the traditional focus of the higher education institutions of Azerbaijan from education only to research and education. QU also enjoys having strong network ties with regional universities in Caucasus. If necessary we would be more than happy to establish quality partnerships from other universities in the region.

I would like to take this duly moment and give a brief introduction about Qafqaz University and its success in terms of: education system, **research centers**, **ongoing projects**, **world rating**, **scientific research laboratory of information and communication technologies**, **university & industry partnership**, and recognition.

Should you be interested and need more information about the university please feel free to request by email. Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Brief Introduction & Quality Assurance**

Qafqaz University has been providing the highest standards in education in Azerbaijan for its students since 1993 and has been the top rated private university since 1996. Modeled on the western education program the university has been offering the credit point system since the day it was opened and adopted the ECTS in all departments. Qafqaz University is the first and only higher educational institution which was nominated with the ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management Certificate and Total Quality Management 100 Certificate of International Arc of Europe in Golden Category in Azerbaijan. The university offers B.A, M.A., M.Sc., MBA and doctoral programs as well as joint M.A. and M.Sc. programs with universities from the United States and Europe (School of Engineering, School of Economic & Administrative Sciences, School of Education). Currently the total student population exceeds 3200.

**Ranking**

According to 2012 QS World University Ranking system, Qafqaz University was ranked 64th in the whole world in terms of *“attracting international students”* and among top 700 universities of the world. In addition, according to State Student Admission Committee of Azerbaijan Republic Qafqaz University has been rated as the top preferred university since 1996.

**Project Management**

As of 2013 QU is engaged in six Tempus projects, three Erasmus Mundus partnerships, and currently works on two FP7 projects focusing on technology transfer and security issues. In addition, with the funding from BP Azerbaijan QU has launched three phase project (establishment of Chemical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, & Civil Engineering) involving the Engineering School. Close to $4 million USD dollars is dedicated by BP Azerbaijan to establish modern laboratories and curriculum at QU Engineering School. Second phase has already been accomplished.

**Tempus**

  ECDL National Operator and Test Centers in Azerbaijan - ENOTES, Grant number (530340-TEMPUS-1-2012-1-AZTEMPUS-JPHES), **Grant holder (Qafqaz University)**, October 15 2012 – October 15 2015

  Development of Training Network for Improving Education in Energy Efficiency ENERGY, Grant number (530379-TEMPUS-1-2012-1-LVTEMPUS-JPCR), Grant holder (Riga Technical University), October 15 2012 – October 15 2015

  Student Support and Development Services SSDS, Grant number (530154-TEMPUS-1-2012-1-ITTEMPUS-JPGR), Grant holder (Universita' Degli Studi Dell'aquila), October 15 2012 – October 15 2015

  Documentation for Quality Assurance of Study Programs DOQUP, Grant number (517340-TEMPUS-1-2011-1-IT-TEMPUS-SMGR), Grant holder (University of Genoa), October 15 2011 – October 15 2014

  Migration and Higher Education – Building Skills and Capacity UNIMIG, Grant number (517002-TEMPUS-1-2011-1-GE-TEMPUS-JPCR), October 15 2011 – October 15 2014

  Establishing Modern Master-level Studies in Industrial Ecology IEMAST (517346-TEMPUS-1-2011-1-SE-TEMPUS-JPCR), October 15 2011 – October 15 2014

**Erasmus Mundus Partnerships**

  Erasmus Mundus ALRAKIS student and staff mobility program ([www.alrakis.eu](http://www.alrakis.eu))

  Erasmus Mundus ALRAKIS II student and staff mobility program ([www.alrakis2.eu](http://www.alrakis2.eu))

  Erasmus Mundus BACKIS student and staff mobility program ([www.backis-mundus.eu](http://www.backis-mundus.eu))

**Framework Partnership 7 (FP7) prospective projects**

  Framework Partnership 7. *“BRIdging the Gap between researcH and innovaTion to ENsure Inclusive & Innovative Societies for EU and the eastern partnership countries (BRIDGE).”*

  Framework Partnership 7. *“Security and democracy in the neighborhood: the case of the Caucasus.”*

**Other Projects**

  BP Azerbaijan (Caspian Ltd.) – Qafqaz University collaboration, “Enlargement of Engineering School” – Phase I (Chemical Engineering), Phase II (Mechanical Engineering), Phase III (Civil Engineering), Grant number (G-10-BPCS-200814), (*budget of $4,000,000.00*), 2010 –2014

**Research Centers**

In order to support research related activities QU has established nine research centers focusing on different spheres. Currently, these centers are engaged in various large scale and small scale projects.

  Caucasus Research Institute

  Center for International Conflict Studies

  Center for Energy Researches

  Research Center for Private Law

  Center for Educational Excellence at Qafqaz University

  Centre for Social and Economical Research

  Scientific Activity of Information Communication Technology Scientific Research Center

  Center for Municipality Researches

  Center for Entrepreneurship

**ISCTSRC**

Qafqaz University Information Communication Technology Scientific Research Center (ICTSRC) is focused on academic and industrial research projects, several of which are related to IT management, technology management, databases and information systems, social networks, e-education, cloud computing, e-government, computer security, software engineering, computer and robot vision, and image processing.

Active Projects of ICTSRC include;

1.                  Methods and frameworks for developing a national standards in ICT

2.                  Methods and frameworks for developing a school management system (SMS) in cloud computing.

3.                  Methods and frameworks for developing multimedia (image, sound, and video) processing search engine system.

4.                  Methods and frameworks for management and analysis of large databases

5.                  Methods and frameworks for developing education communities social networks

6.                  Methods and frameworks for e-government service development

7.                  Methods and frameworks for robotics control via mobile web platform

8.                  Methods and frameworks for developing e-library system in cloud computing

9.                  Methods and frameworks for developing face recognition methods

10.               Methods and frameworks for developing a decision making system for automation robotics. Methods and frameworks for developing a corporate network system providing information security (development of information security politics for corporative networks, establishment of such an environment that provides secure exchange of system identification and authentication, record and audit, encryption and methods of integrity control by means of establishment of virtual special secure network and provision of secure connection to Internet is the main function of information security provision.)

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**Sincerely,**

**Anar Taghiyev**

**International Relations Office**

**Qafqaz University**

[**www.qu.edu.az**](http://www.qu.edu.az)