



SAN DIEGO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

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**Georgia**

**SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY  
IN  
GEORGIA**

**H. Güven**

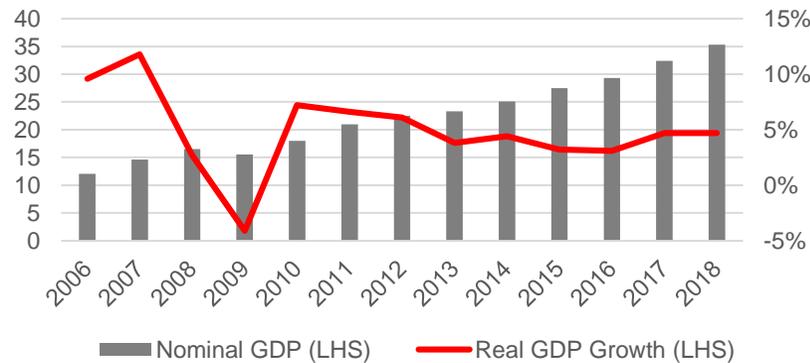
*Dean, San Diego State University – Georgia  
Tbilisi, GEORGIA*





# About Georgia

## Economic Performance



## Three main labor issues

1. Underutilization of labor resources;
2. Earnings inequality
3. Skills mismatch

## Some stats

Income per capita – 4,290 USD

General Unemployment rate – 12.7%

Youth Unemployment rate – 27.1%

Average salary – 1,126 GEL  $\approx$  380 USD

## Georgian Higher Education

Bologna Declaration and Reforms

Three main deficiencies:

1. Low quality of obtainable education
2. Deficient teaching methodology
3. Low qualification of teachers



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# SDSU-G 101

## Goals

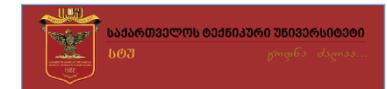
- Increase **awareness of STEM** education and prepare **highly qualified STEM professionals**
- Initiate **reforms in STEM** subjects and introduce **international accreditation concepts** to state universities
- **Build capacity** through renovation/construction and faculty development

Funded by US Millennium Challenge Corporation and the Government of Georgia



## Associated with **three state universities**

- Tbilisi State University
- Ilia State University
- Georgian Technical University



## Offering **six degree programs**

- **Computer Science**
- **Chemistry/Biochemistry**
- **Computer Engineering**
- **Electrical Engineering**
- **Civil Engineering**
- **Construction Engineering**



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# Project Implementation

## Collaborative Structure

- Operates without owning a land, buildings or facilities but has access to all relevant facilities and equipment
- Students are co-enrolled at SDSU and Georgian partner universities

## Sustainability

- Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact ended July 2019
- Special Steering Committee to support internationalization of STEM programs
- Transitioning the programs to partner universities

## Key Features

- Interest in US Accredited programs
- Curricula, policies identical to SDSU campus, leading to same degrees
- General Education curriculum
- Laboratories copied from SDSU campus





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# Project Highlights

- Has renovated and constructed **9000 sq. m. of PU facilities**.
- Has conducted faculty development activities for over **100 faculty**.
- Assists partner universities with **program transition and international accreditation**: Tbilisi State University Computer Science, and Electrical Engineering programs have received **ABET confirmation**.
- Established the **American Chemical Society (ACS) Georgia Chapter**.
- Has enrolled up to **800 students in 6 degree programs** and will graduate approximately **550 STEM professionals till 2023**.
- Has graduated 55 as **class of 2019 (40% with honors)**.
- Has increased the **awareness of STEM education** through country-wide STEM academies.
- Has introduced early application and **conditional admission model**.
- Focuses on **disadvantaged groups**; provides **financial assistance**.
- Offers **English language support, academic advising, psychological counseling, grants** for enrichment and development of student experiences, **career and employment services**, assistance with **graduate studies**.
- Collaborates with stakeholders, including local industry and the Government.





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# SDSU World Campus

## Vision

To be a global leader in providing innovative education programs that transform lives locally and internationally.

## Mission

Our mission is to be a world leader in delivering innovative educational experiences to all learners, expanding opportunity and transforming lives. Our programs and technologies are ever-evolving to meet ever-changing needs; our high level of service and support is a constant.

## Coming Spring 2020 SDSU World Campus will:

- Expand access to all types of learners.
- Work with SDSU academic departments to provide you with more programs without sacrificing quality.
- Increase workforce initiatives, corporate partnerships, and networking opportunities to help you meet your career goals.
- Maintain your academic experience with SDSU professors who are committed to helping you succeed.
- Support you throughout your academic journey with a unified student access point across all types of programs.

FROM WEBSITE



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## Areas of Study

SDSU World Campus offers:

- **Online degrees**
- **On-Campus degrees**
- **Online/On-Campus Hybrid degrees**

SDSU World Campus offers an online bachelor's degree completion program in business administration and several master's degree programs that are structured for working adults. These programs provide the flexibility needed by adults who combine a workforce commitment, and often a family commitment with the desire to complete a degree in their chosen field.

- Arts & Culture
- Business
- Construction
- Education
- Government & Politics
- Health care and Fitness
- Hospitality
- International
- One-unit Weekend courses
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
- ROTC
- Science, Computers, & Technology
- SDSU Thesis Extension
- Study Skills & Test Prep
- Winter Session
- Writing, Language, & Communication

FROM WEBSITE



# SUSTAINABILITY OF SDSU GEORGIA PROJECT

## International Accreditation - ABET & ACS

- Tbilisi State University has received ABET approval for its Computer Science and Electrical and Electronics Engineering programs.
- ACS Georgian Chapter has been official ratified by the ACS Board of Directors. Founders of the Chapter are the rectors of the 4 Georgian state universities and the SDSU Georgia Dean.



### GLOBAL COMMUNITY

- Global Resources
- Events & Workshops
- Travel & Project Grants
- Travel
- Chapters
- Science & Human Rights
- International Center
- Global Partnerships
- Newsletter

## Georgia Chapter

The Georgia International Chemical Sciences Chapter was officially established in December 2019.

ACS Council voted at the ACS National Meeting in San Diego on August 28, 2019 to approve the application of the Georgia International Chemical Sciences Chapter application.

### Chapter Officers

- Chair:** Nugzar Davitashvili, Ph.D.
- Vice Chair:** Giorgi Jibuti, Ph.D.
- Secretary:** Natasha Khatri, Ph.D.
- Treasurer:** Ana Goletiani, Ph.D.
- Councilor:** William Tong, Ph.D.



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# SUSTAINABILITY OF SDSU GEORGIA PROJECT

## Operation and Maintenance (O&M)

SDSU Georgia plans to transfer mechanical equipment for maintenance to partner universities by 2021, and the laboratories will be transferred by 2023.

Maintenance is defined as work on the existing assets purchased through the SDSU Georgia project with the intention of:

- Reinstating physical condition to a specified standard
- Preventing further deterioration or failure
- Restoring correct operation within the specified parameters
- Replacing components at the end of their useful/economic life with modern engineering equivalents
- Making temporary repairs for immediate health, safety and security reasons
- Assessing buildings for maintenance requirements.

SDSU Georgia will organize O&M Workshops for the partner universities to discuss the maintenance and procurement scheme to be adopted after the transfer of the equipment.



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# SUSTAINABILITY OF SDSU GEORGIA PROJECT

## Potential “Two-diploma” Program Feasibility Study

**Objective:** SDSU to provide a “degree completion” opportunity to Partner University (PU) students enrolled in Pus’ ABET accredited programs.

**Benefits:** An opportunity for the PU students to pursue a second diploma from SDSU. SDSU will build on the existing capacity in Georgia, through its World Campus initiative.

### Challenges:

- National accreditation (EQE) approval of PU programs
- Feasibility for WASC
- Approval from CSU Chancellor’s office after WASC
- Feasibility/Affordability of the program in Georgia (Similar to Dalberg’s Strategic Growth Plan for STEM Higher Education in Georgia, 2017)



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# SUSTAINABILITY OF SDSU GEORGIA PROJECT

## Supporting STEM Research and Graduate Education in Georgia

The project was prepared by **Dr. Walter Oechel of SDSU** and was funded by **the U.S. State Department**.

The project is designed to improve the standards of Georgian academic research at Georgian universities and will significantly increase the interaction between the Georgian and American academics and researchers. This project will strengthen the quantitative and qualitative research skills and the academic writing of young Georgian researchers including assistant professors, and doctoral students.

### **2 main approaches:**

1. Provide short courses to young academics to conduct and communicate research and scientific study.
2. Partner the Georgian Ph.D. students with SDSU faculty mentors to “learn by doing” through example, mentorship, and interaction along with the other graduate students at SDSU.

### **4 areas of study:**

1. Chemistry
2. Computer Science
3. Ecology and Environmental Science
4. Engineering



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## Conclusion / Closure

- Before SDSU came to Georgia
- Raising awareness of STEM education
- Positive impact on higher education practices
- Collaborative partnership and goals with local state universities
- Sustainability through new initiatives
- SDSU World Campus

