

## AZERBAIJAN: an overview

### REASONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FAIR



- ✓ Growing number of Azerbaijani students studying abroad. **20% of Azerbaijani students are mobile<sup>1</sup>**.
- ✓ In 2019, **44 210** Azerbaijani students studied abroad, which represents an increase of **35% since 2014**.
- ✓ **Enhanced support to international student mobility & internationalization of Higher Education from the Ministry of Education** within the framework of the *State Program for the Education of Youth at Prestigious Universities of Foreign Countries (2022-2026)*.

### General presentation<sup>2</sup>

- **Population** : 10.09 million (2020)
- **Official name** : Republic of Azerbaijan
- **Capital** : Baku (2.4 million inhabitants)
- **Political System** : presidential republic
- **Rural population** (in % of total population) : 44%
- **Annual population growth**: 0.7%
- **Major Languages**: Azerbaijani (Azeri) (official) 92.5%, Russian 1.4%, Armenian 1.4%
- **Ethnic groups** : Azerbaijani 91.6%, Lezghin 2%, Russian 1.3%, Armenian 1.3%, Talysh 1.3%, other 2.4% (2009 est.)
- **Religion**: Muslim 97.3% (predominantly Shia), Christian 2.6%, other <0.1, unaffiliated <0.1 (2020 est.)
- **Life Expectancy**: 71 (men), 77 (women) (2022 est.)



<sup>1</sup> Source : <http://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-student-flow>

<sup>2</sup> Sources :  
[https://databank.worldbank.org/views/reports/reportwidget.aspx?Report\\_Name=CountryProfile&Id=b450fd57&tbar=y&dd=y&inf=n&zm=n&country=AZE](https://databank.worldbank.org/views/reports/reportwidget.aspx?Report_Name=CountryProfile&Id=b450fd57&tbar=y&dd=y&inf=n&zm=n&country=AZE)  
<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/azerbaijan/>

Azerbaijan was established as an independent country in 1918. It was incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1920. Azerbaijan later on declared sovereignty on September 23, 1989, and independence on August 30, 1991. The country sits at the crossroads of Eastern Europe and Western Asia. Currently, it has nearly 10 million inhabitants; 28.5%<sup>3</sup> of its population is under the age of 20.

According to the World Bank, GDP is expanding by a rate of 1.4%. The World Bank also noted notable increases in the 2019 budget allocations for education (up by 13%) and health care (by 44.5%).

Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev signed in February 2022 an order on the approval of the "State Program for the Education of Youth at Prestigious Universities of Foreign Countries for 2022-2026." Under the State Program, it is anticipated that up to 2,000 (with no more than 400 people per year) citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan will receive scholarships to study in foreign universities during the period 2022-2026. These funds are largely being made available by SOFAZ (State Oil Fund of Azerbaijan). During the implementation of the State Program, the following fields of study will be given priority: information technologies; engineering; statistics and data analysis; fundamental and applied sciences; public health; education; environment; aviation and space; public administration; transport and logistics; energy; economy; finance; architecture and design; agriculture.

## Higher Education Institutions in Azerbaijan

### Key information about Higher Education in Azerbaijan:

- **43 public universities** (including 20 public HEIs subordinated to the Ministry of Education, 11 under other state organizations plus branches of 2 foreign HEIs)
- **10 private Higher Education Institutions**
- Secondary and higher education are delivered either in Azerbaijani or in Russian. Some study programmes are also available in English.
- **Baku** is where most HEI are located.

The organization of Higher Education in Azerbaijan, and the distribution of students by courses and specialties, is established on state instruction: for each faculty, the State sets quotas. Within these quotas, some positions are sponsored by the State (positions awarded to students who obtained the best results at the university entrance exams), and positions for which tuition fees apply.

The high school leaving certificate – "attestat" - (which success rate is close to 100%) does not give automatic access to higher education, students must pass an entrance examination organized at the national level by the State University Admissions Commission (Azərbaycan Respublikasının Dövlət İmtahan Mərkəzi).

This commission, founded in 1994, does not depend on the Ministry of Education, but reports directly to the Presidential Administration. Enrolment in the first year of a Bachelor's Degree at the university (public and private) is decided solely by this review board.

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<sup>3</sup> Source : <https://www.stat.gov.az/source/demography/ap/>

The government budget dedicated to education grew by 18.3 percent – in 2022 compared to 2021, with \$35.29 million allocated to Higher Education.

**Higher education in Azerbaijan consists of three levels of degree: Bachelor's (four years), Master's (two years) and Doctorate (three years).**

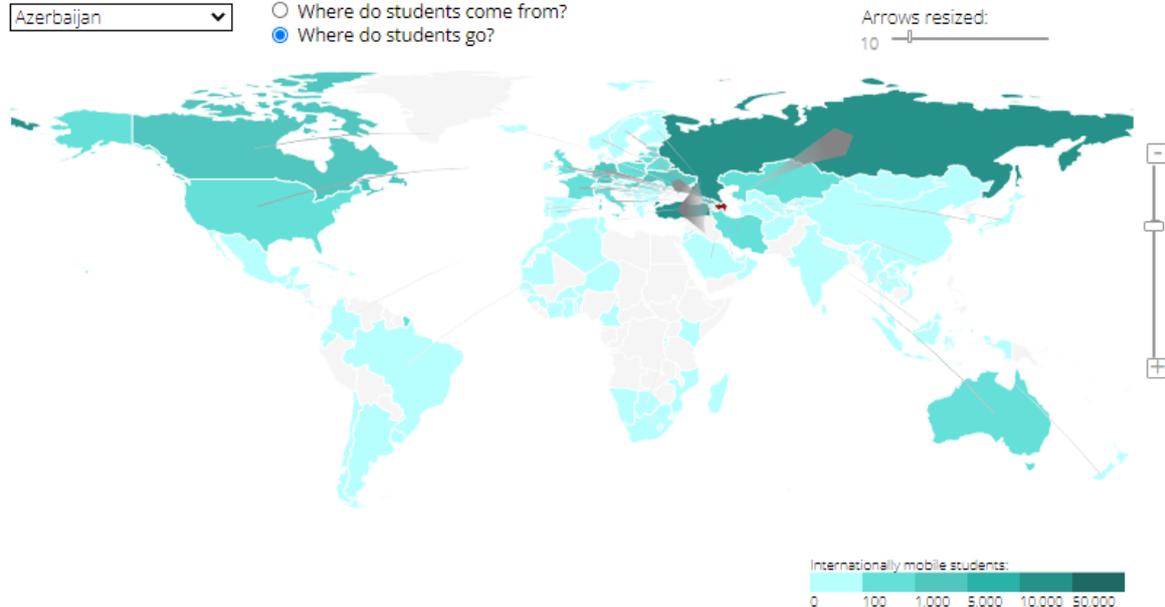
There are **4 types of Higher Education Institutions in Azerbaijan**: university, institute, academy, and conservatoire. The main student cities are Baku, Ganja, Nakhichevan, Lekoran and Sumgait.

- **University:** a multi-profile higher educational institution, which carries out a broad range of specialist training at all levels of higher education, in-service training programs, and conducts fundamental and applied scientific research.
- **Institute:** a higher education institution, either independent or a structural unit of the universities, which carries out the training of specialists with higher education on specific specialties, as well as provides in service training programs.
- **Academy:** a higher educational institution that implements higher and in-service training programs, and conducts fundamental and applied scientific research.
- **Conservatoire:** a higher educational institution, which trains highly specialized experts on the field of music.

Several partnerships and double degree programmes have been established between European and Azerbaijani HEIs, for example with France, Spain, Portugal, Turkey.

## Outgoing Student Mobility Figures

To explore the data select a country from the menu, or click on the map.



- In 2019, **44 210** Azerbaijani students studied abroad, which represents an increase of **35% since 2014. 20% of Azerbaijani students are mobile<sup>4</sup>.**
- Turkey is the preferred destination for Azerbaijani students (19 383 students).
- In previous years, The Russian Federation & Ukraine were the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> most popular study destination of Azerbaijanis students.
- Close to 23 000 Azerbaijanis students come to Europe mainly to Turkey, Germany, Hungary, Italy, France, Poland, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia.

Destination countries offering programmes taught in English are popular among Azerbaijani students, especially in the fields of engineering and business.

<sup>4</sup> Source : <http://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-student-flow>

## Erasmus + in Azerbaijan

The EU and Azerbaijan have worked together to conclude various political agreements. The most important is the EU-Azerbaijan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (1999) which aims at enhancing trade, investment, the economy, legislation and culture.

In 2013, a National Erasmus+ Office in Azerbaijan in Baku was established in order to increase engagement with the European Union, and provide information about the Erasmus+ programme to students from Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan introduced the ECTS system in 2006.

### International Credit Mobility

	TOTAL	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Proposals received involving Azerbaijan	727	144	134	137	107	97	108
Projects selected involving Azerbaijan	488	139	120	77	52	56	44
Students and staff moving to Europe	2.142	517	325	424	258	369	249
Students and staff moving to Azerbaijan	1.227	344	187	245	181	184	86
Percentage of regional mobility		9.828	6.907	8.796	6.429	8.42	6.628

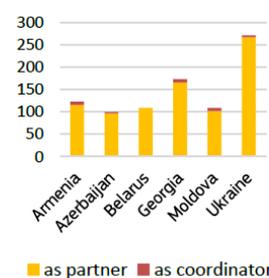
### Capacity Building for Higher Education

#### Azerbaijan in CBHE projects

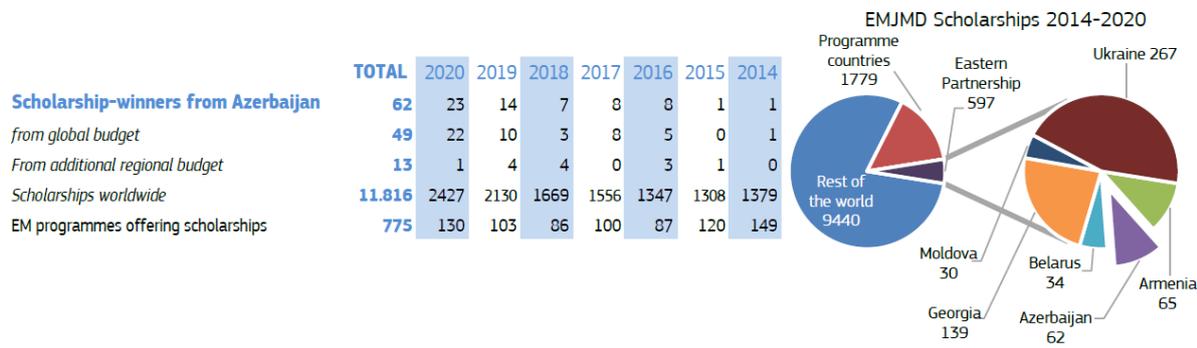
	TOTAL	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Proposals received in call overall	4.830	1019	840	887	833	736	515
Projects selected in call overall	908	164	163	147	149	147	138
Proposals received involving Azerbaijan	229	45	34	28	42	49	31
Projects selected involving Azerbaijan	19	6	3	3	1	3	3
Projects coordinated by Azerbaijan	4	1	0	0	1	1	1
Instances of participation from Azerbaijan in selected projects	100	31	12	10	12	14	21

Capacity building projects can be addressed to a group of countries or a single country. They can also be cross-regional, including institutions from different partner regions.

Eastern Partnership:  
participation in CBHE  
2015-2020



## Scholarship winners from Azerbaijan



Source (2019): [https://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/erasmus-plus/factsheets/neighbourhood/azerbaijan\\_erasmusplus\\_2019.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/erasmus-plus/factsheets/neighbourhood/azerbaijan_erasmusplus_2019.pdf)

### To learn more ...

#### About development and higher education statistics in Azerbaijan:

<http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/az>

<https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/specific-country-data#/countries/AZE>

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/azerbaijan/overview#1>

#### To learn more about student mobility from Azerbaijan:

<http://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-student-flow>

#### Erasmus+ and Azerbaijan

[https://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/erasmus-plus/factsheets/neighbourhood/azerbaijan\\_erasmusplus\\_2019.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/erasmus-plus/factsheets/neighbourhood/azerbaijan_erasmusplus_2019.pdf)

#### EU- Azerbaijan relations

[https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/european-neighbourhood-policy/countries-region/azerbaijan\\_fr#eu--azerbaijan-relations](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/european-neighbourhood-policy/countries-region/azerbaijan_fr#eu--azerbaijan-relations)

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/31691/eap-summit-factsheet-azerbaijan-eng.pdf>

#### EU support to Young people in Azerbaijan

[https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/system/files/2019-03/eu\\_support\\_to\\_youth-az.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/system/files/2019-03/eu_support_to_youth-az.pdf)

#### Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Azerbaijan:

[https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/azerbaijan\\_en?s=217](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/azerbaijan_en?s=217)

#### National Erasmus+ Office in Azerbaijan:

<http://erasmusplus.org.az/>