



Call for Participants

Summer School Series | Social Cohesion & Public Policy in Central Asia and the Caucasus

**Ever thought about traveling to Central Asia?
| Taking part in an international summer school?
| Discussing with high level experts about your dream topic ...?**

... We invite applications from early-career researchers to join our international, interdisciplinary, and practice-oriented summer school series **“Social Cohesion and Public Policy in Central Asia and the Caucasus: Disentangling the Linkage Through Ideas, Interests, and Institutions”**. The programme is dedicated to understanding and advancing social cohesion and public policy in Central Asia and the Caucasus – together with a group of 15 participants and high-level experts from Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Germany.

The Program

This three-part summer school series will take place across three countries – Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Georgia – from September 2025 to September 2026, culminating in an international conference and publication.

Participants will:

- Engage in interactive training on research methodology, policy impact, transdisciplinary approaches, and public engagement.
- Develop their own academic and/or policy-oriented research project(s).
- Collaborate with leading experts and peers from across the region and Germany.
- Produce outputs such as policy briefs, academic papers, and podcasts.
- Receive certificates and opportunities for high-quality publication.

Where and When?

- **Summer School 1:** 9–14 September 2025 | Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- **Summer School 2:** 23–29 March 2026 | Almaty, Kazakhstan
- **Summer School 3 & Final Conference:** 22–27 September 2026 | Tbilisi, Georgia
- Two online preparatory meetings

Who Should Apply?

We invite applications **from early-career researchers** from **Central Asia, the Caucasus, or Germany**, who:

- Are interested in interdisciplinary and policy-relevant research;
- Work on themes related to:
 - Social cohesion (e.g., social capital, trust, participation, identity, inequality), and/or
 - Public policy (e.g., governance, law, education, healthcare, conflict resolution);

- Have a strong motivation to engage with or learn about Central Asia and/or the Caucasus (not required, but welcome);
- Are fluent in English (the working language of the summer school);
- Can demonstrate innovative potential, coherence, and feasibility in their project proposal.

What You'll Gain

Through three interconnected summer schools held in **Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Georgia**, participants will benefit from a year-long, immersive learning experience that offers:

- Mentorship and exchange with international scholars and policy practitioners from Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Europe
- Advanced workshops on research design and methodological pluralism
- Training in writing for both academic journals and policy-oriented publications
- Sessions on research ethics, security, and publishing strategies, especially in sensitive political contexts
- Collaborative teamwork and interdisciplinary peer learning
- Opportunities for visibility and impact through public dissemination via recognized academic and policy platforms

What We'll Expect

Participants are expected to:

- **Attend all three summer schools**, including preparatory sessions
- **Actively work on their individual project**, with the aim of producing a final publication
- **Develop and submit at least one policy paper** (or an equivalent output such as a podcast or academic article) over the course of the program

Costs and Support

The program covers travel, accommodation, and participation costs for the selected participants. Certification of attendance and opportunities for publication will be provided.

... What to do: Apply!

How? Submit the following documents as a **single PDF in English**:

1. **Curriculum Vitae** (maximum 2 pages), including academic background, relevant experience, and—if applicable—any social or community engagement
2. **A short project proposal** (500–1000 words), outlining your research idea and its relevance to the theme of the summer school
3. **Motivation letter** (maximum 1 page), explaining your interest in the program and how your work connects to its focus areas
4. **Optional:** If you require childcare support or face any access barriers, please let us know so we can explore possible solutions



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in Central Asia and the Caucasus

Applications should be submitted by midnight (CET) on **20th June 2025** to **cacproject@tu-dortmund.de**.

Selection process will include the review of applications and, if necessary, short online interviews in the week of 23–27 June 2025. We will inform all participants by the end of June.

Who We Are

This summer school series is a collaboration of Crossroads Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan | Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev), Kazakh-German University (Kazakhstan | Dr. Serik Beimenbetov), TU Dortmund University (Germany | Dr. Nora Becker), The University of Georgia (Dr. Shalva Dzebisashvili), and Tbilisi State University (Dr. Giorgi Dgebuadze | both Georgia), funded by Volkswagen Foundation.

Find out more about our previous program here, which will start now in its next generation:
<http://cac-project.org/>.

Contact Us!

We look forward to receiving applications from a wide variety of (professional) backgrounds, motivations and a colourful bouquet of new project ideas!

For questions, please also contact **cacproject@tu-dortmund.de**.



IVANE JAVAKHISHVILI
TBILISI STATE UNIVERSITY

... See you in September in Bishkek!