

**VISITING RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
INFORMATION NOTE**

About program

“Visiting Research Fellowship Program” offers research opportunities for international scholars specialized in the Caspian Sea region and Azerbaijan. Candidates having academic interest in the region are welcome to apply for in-residence fellowships in Baku, Azerbaijan. “Visiting Research Fellowship Program” is carried out in cooperation with the following research institutions of Azerbaijan and is sponsored by the Azerbaijan International Development Agency (AIDA):

- 1- The Centre for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SAM) (www.sam.gov.az).
- 2- The Research and Development Center – The Central Bank of the Republic of Azerbaijan (www.cbar.az).
- 3- The Institute of Human Rights, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (www.ihr-az.org)

The host institutions support scholars (“fellows”) by providing excellent conditions for conducting their research and by establishing a strong and fruitful network among academics in the country. They have acquired a unique position in the region and have meanwhile established themselves as research centers of international reputation.

Application period

The program sponsored by AIDA provides research opportunities for international scholars in the following periods of year:

1- The Centre for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SAM) and ADA University:

Sessions / approximate dates	Application deadline
1 st session: 15 January – 15 April	15 December
2 nd session: 15 April – 30 June	15 March
3 rd session: <i>Could be arranged under special request.</i>	
4 th session: 15 September – 15 December	15 September

2- The Research Center of the Central Bank of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Sessions / approximate dates	Application deadline
1 st session: 15 January – 15 March	15 December
2 nd session: 15 April – 15 June	15 March
3 rd session: 15 July – 15 September	15 June
4 th session: 15 October – 15 December	15 September

3- The Institute of Human Rights - Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences

Sessions / approximate dates	Application deadline
1 st session: 15 January – 15 April	15 December
2 nd session: 15 April – 30 June	15 March
3 rd session: 1 July – 15 September	15 June
4 th session: 15 September – 15 December	15 September

Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible for a fellowship award:

- Ideal candidates at the time of application should either already hold or be enrolled in a PhD programme.
- Preference is given to candidates whose research background and interests match the selected topic.
- Have an excellent command of English, both written and verbal

Provision of support

- All fellows are provided with a roundtrip ticket to Azerbaijan.
- Fellows who have requested for the accommodation to be provided by AIDA will be sharing an apartment with 1 (one) other fellow of the same gender. Each fellow will have his or her private bedroom in the apartment.
- Fellows are granted a monthly stipend of 1000 AZN (approx. 1000 USD) during the entire period of their fellowship.
- Emergency medical insurance for the period of the program is also covered.
- Accommodation utility bills are not covered by the program (participants are in charge for their gas, electricity, water, phone and internet bills).
- Visa issuing might take a long time. Therefore, we strongly advise you to make the application for 3 month visa to the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan as soon as you receive your confirmation of participation in the program.

Research process

During the period of the program successful candidates will conduct their research on the topic selected from the list provided by AIDA.

With regards to carrying out the research the participants will be provided with work station, available resources. As wireless internet connection is available at the office it is advisable to take your personal laptop with you for your personal convenience.

Participants of the “Visiting Research Fellowship Program” are expected to work five days of a week (9:00 – 18:00) in the host office.

After meeting with their respective advisors at the work station, within the first 10 working days the researcher has to provide AIDA with the work plan reflecting activities planned to be implemented within the research program. AIDA should be kept informed on any change to the work plan.

Fellows are required to issue two reports, a mid-term report (*at the end of the first month*) during the fellowship period and a final report (*a week before the research presentation*) containing the result of research. The aforementioned reports should be submitted to the programme coordinator.

Moreover, researcher is expected to prepare a short (10-15 minutes) presentation on a topic. Program participants are also required to submit their presentation material to the program coordinator.

After completion of the Fellowship Programme, within the period of three months, the researcher is expected to issue and submit to AIDA published or disseminated research article/paper.

Application procedure

To apply for the program researchers should submit hard copies of all documents listed below to the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in their country. Application documents should also be submitted electronically to the following email addresses: **mbial@mfa.gov.az; rm_abdullayev@mfa.gov.az**

Candidates are asked to enter in the subject field of their e-mail message “**Visiting Research Fellowship Program**”.

The application package includes:

- 1. Application Form for the Research Program;**
- 2. Research Topic and Research Proposal (about 500 words);**
- 3. Resume (CV) in English;**
- 4. The list of publications;**
- 5. The copy of a passport.**

For queries about the application form you can contact the Program coordinator in AIDA, Mr. Ruslan Abdullayev:

Tel: +99412 5969310, +99412 5969132

Fax: (+99412) 5969132

Email: rm_abdullayev@mfa.gov.az

Selection Process

After submission of application documents to AIDA through the respective Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, fellowship applications are reviewed and evaluated by AIDA and the relevant research institution, based on eligibility criteria: academic performance, teaching and research, experience and relevance of selected research topic. Only successful candidates will be contacted.

The electronic copies of the program documents can be downloaded from the following links:

- **Program Information Note:** <http://tinyurl.com/pm92lhs>
- **Application Form:** <http://tinyurl.com/km2pl6s>
- **Research Proposal Form:** <http://tinyurl.com/qdkvkmo>



**Azerbaijan International Development Agency
(AIDA)**

**VISITING RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
APPLICATION FORM**

Photo

*Note: Please TYPE in a word processing program.
Do not leave any space blank.*

1. PERSONAL DATA

Full Name: _____
First
Middle
Last (Surname)

Date of Birth			Sex	Marital Status	Nationality	Religion
Day	Month	Year				
			M [] F []			
Passport Number			Type of Passport (Ordinary/Service/Diplomatic)		Passport Expiry	
Airport of departure			Airport of return (upon completion of the research program)		Preferred airport of transit	
Do you need us to send you a copy of acceptance letter in case you are selected for the program?					Yes [] No []	

Permanent address : _____

Mailing address: _____

Tel.: _____ - _____ - _____ Mobile : _____
Country code area code number

Fax No : _____ - _____ - _____
Country code area code number

E-mail Address: _____

7. EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS

Name of Institution	From	To	Field of Study and Degree
	Month/ year	Month/ year	
	/	/	
	/	/	
	/	/	
	/	/	

8. LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Language Indicators:

Level I = Basic Knowledge

Level II = Limited Knowledge

Level III = Good Working Knowledge

Level IV = Fluent

Level V = Professional Translator

Language	Speak	Read	Write	Primary Language (Yes / No)

In case English is not your primary language, it is required to provide a proof of sufficient knowledge of English by meeting one of the following criteria:

- TOEIC: _____
- TOEFL IBT/PBT: _____
- IELTS: _____
- A diploma of secondary or higher education where English was the language of instruction.
- Other: _____

9. DISABILITIES, SPECIAL NEEDS OR SUPPORT

If you have a disability, special needs or a medical condition that will require a special assistance concerning your studies or stay in Azerbaijan, please tick the appropriate box and enclose further details in a separate sheet.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheelchair User/Mobility difficulty | <input type="checkbox"/> HIV / AIDS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dyslexia | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Care support | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Disabilities: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blind/Partially sighted | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health difficulty | ----- |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deaf/Hearing impairment | <input type="checkbox"/> Unseen disability e.g. Diabetes, Epilepsy | |

10. ACCOMMODATION

Please put tick at the appropriate line:

I request AIDA to provide me with the accommodation and agree to stay in the provided apartment under the conditions indicated in the "Program Information Note" of this program. _____

I will organize and pay for my accommodation myself. _____

11. REPORTING

After meeting with the respective advisors at work station, within the first 10 working days, I agree to provide AIDA with the work plan reflecting activities planned to be implemented within the research program period and I will keep AIDA informed on any change to the work plan;

I agree to submit a mid-term report (*at the end of the first month*) during the fellowship period and a final report (*a week before the research presentation*) containing the result of research.

I agree to summarize the research outcomes and submit to AIDA;

I agree to make a presentation on the conducted research topic (in English) at the end of the research program;

I agree to submit to AIDA published or disseminated research article/paper on the research done, within the three months after the completion of the research program.

12. EMERGENCY CONTACT

Full name: _____

How related to you: _____

Mobile number (daytime): _____

Mobile number (nighttime): _____

E-mail: _____

13. DECLARATION OF CONSENT

I hereby declare that I have read the "Program Information Note" and agree with all the points; the above statements are correct and complete and I am of sound health to carry out the envisaged research project.

Signature: _____

Date _____

The electronic copies of the program documents can be downloaded from the following links:

- **Program Information Note:** <http://tinyurl.com/pm92lls>
- **Application Form:** <http://tinyurl.com/km2pl6s>
- **Research Proposal Form:** <http://tinyurl.com/qdkvkmo>



**Azerbaijan International Development Agency
(AIDA)**

**VISITING RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
RESEARCH PROPOSAL FORM**

Note: Please TYPE in a word processing program. Do not leave any space blank.

PRINCIPAL RESEARCHER

Full name:

Date and Place of Birth:

Sex:

Marital Status:

Nationality:

Passport Number and Date of Expiry:

Mobile phone:

Work phone:

E-mail:

NAME OF THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE:(where the research will be conducted)

RESEARCH TITLE:(selected from the list of topics)

TIME OF APPLICATION:

(Write the year and put tick in front of the period you apply for)

Year: _____

1st session ___ 2nd session ___ 3rd session ___ 4th session ___

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:(To what extent the produced research article/paper will contribute to the development of you personally and the research country? Do not exceed more than 500 words.)

STUDY OBJECTIVES:
METHODOLOGY:
RESULTS AND DISSEMINATION: (How do you plan to use or disseminate the produced article/paper on the results of the research?)
TIMEFRAME: (it should be in the form of a GANTT Chart, activity by activity.)
DECLARATION OF CONSENT: (I hereby declare that I have read the“Program Information Note” and agree with all the points; the above statements are correct and complete and that I am of sound health to carry out the envisaged research project.)
Date: _____ Signature: _____

The electronic copies of the program documents can be downloaded from the following links:

- *Program Information Note:* <http://tinyurl.com/pm92llhs>
- *Application Form:* <http://tinyurl.com/km2pl6s>
- *Research Proposal Form:* <http://tinyurl.com/qdkvkmo>

The Centre for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SAM)
and
ADA University

Research topics

1. Green economy, energy efficiency and alternative sources of energy in Azerbaijan;
2. Azerbaijan as a regional economic driver;
3. Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway: the Iron Ground for the Silk Road;
4. The view from Azerbaijan: the European gas supply/demand outlook. The European gas market dynamic;
5. The view from Azerbaijan: the race to export – possible competition of gas supply to Europe;
6. The view from Azerbaijan: LNG pricing and trading taskforce;
7. The South Gas Corridor: gas industry development and possible marketing and transportation of Iraqi gas;
8. The South Gas Corridor: gas industry development and possible marketing and transportation of East Mediterranean gas;
9. Geo-economic reshaping of the South Caucasus and Central Asia;
10. Azerbaijan's economic & trade cooperation with Gulf countries;
11. Public private partnership in Azerbaijan;
12. Financial inclusion and its importance for Azerbaijan;
13. E-trade and e-commerce in Azerbaijan;
14. Sustainable development and competitiveness in Azerbaijan;
15. International financial institutions and their investment strategy in Azerbaijan;
16. Human capital development in Azerbaijan;
17. Economic diversification and modernization in Azerbaijan;
18. Azerbaijan as a link between Europe and Asia: Silk roads (geo-economic aspects);
19. Azerbaijan as a link between Europe and Asia: Silk roads (geopolitical aspects);
20. The role of Azerbaijan in exporting Central Asia's hydro-carbon resources to the world market;

21. The role of Azerbaijan in energy security of Europe;
22. Transit potential of Azerbaijan and its impact on regional development;
23. New possible integrative process among the Caspian Sea states;
24. South Caucasus and possible developments in the region;
25. The role of regional organizations in development of multilateral relations between Azerbaijan and the countries of the Black Sea region;
26. Cyber security and its importance for Azerbaijan;
27. Soft power and bargaining leverage in Azerbaijan's foreign policy;
28. Azerbaijan's foreign policy in the Wider Black Sea: prospects and implications
29. Azerbaijan's foreign policy in the Balkans Region: prospects and implications;
30. The role of Azerbaijan International Development Agency (AIDA) in the implementation of the Azerbaijan's foreign policy.
31. The role of Azerbaijan in Non-Alignment Movement;
32. Azerbaijan-EU relations: current challenges and future prospects;
33. Azerbaijan-NATO relations: cooperation in security field;
34. Possibilities for solution of Azerbaijani-Turkmenistan legal dispute over the oil fields in the Caspian Sea;
35. The role of Azerbaijan-Kazakhstan cooperation in revitalizing Silk Road: East-West transportation corridor between Asia and Europe;
36. Azerbaijan-Uzbekistan relations: current situation and future perspectives;
37. Azerbaijan-China relations: current situation and future perspectives;
38. The possibility of energy cooperation between Azerbaijan and China;
39. Azerbaijan-Japan relations: current situation and future perspectives;
40. Azerbaijan relations with the South-East Asian states: expectations and prospects;
41. Azerbaijan-U.S. relations: current situation and future perspectives;
42. Azerbaijan's relations with the Latin American states: expectations and prospects;
43. Azerbaijan-Russia relations: current situation and future perspectives;
44. Azerbaijan-Ukraine relations: current situation and future perspectives;
45. Azerbaijan-Moldova relations: current situation and future perspectives;
46. Azerbaijan-Georgia relations: current situation and future perspectives;

47. Azerbaijan-Turkey relations: current situation and future perspectives;
48. Azerbaijan's relations with the Muslim states: current situation and future perspectives;
49. Azerbaijan's input in post 2014 Afghanistan;
50. Azerbaijani model of religious tolerance: life of Jewish and Christian minorities in traditionally Muslim society;
51. Azerbaijan as a model of contemporary Muslim state;
52. Protracted armed conflicts in GUAM states;
53. 20 years since the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh ceasefire agreement: simmering conflict and failed initiatives;
54. The resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh from the perspective of International Law;
55. The impact of the OIC towards the resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh;
56. The role of Azerbaijan in Non-Alignment Movement (NAM) and its impact to the resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh;
57. OSCE Minsk Group efforts around the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh;
58. The impact of the international organizations towards the resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh;
59. The impact of Council of Europe towards the resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh;
60. The EU stance in the resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh;
61. The UN and its impact towards the resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict Nagorno-Karabakh;
62. The Arab League and its contribution to the resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh;
63. *Middle class in Azerbaijan: a stabilizer and bulwark. (SAM)

The Research and Development Center – The Central Bank of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Research topics

1. Macroeconomic research topics:

- 1.1. Monetary transmission in Azerbaijan
- 1.2. Modeling and forecasting capacity in Central Bank of Azerbaijan

2. Research topics for financial sector analysis:

- 2.1. Financial intermediation in Azerbaijan
- 2.2. Prudential policy framework in Azerbaijan financial sector
- 2.3. Modern payment infrastructure in Azerbaijan

The Institute of Human Rights
Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences

Research topics

- 1- Role and importance of economic and social factors in the development of democratic institutions, civil and political rights and freedoms.
- 2- Challenges in achieving transcultural consensus in human rights issues: nations and civilizations, peculiarities and differences.
- 3- Legal issues in interstate cooperation on transportation of the Caspian energy resources to the world markets.
- 4- Nuclear Power Plants in the territories of the CIS member states: environmental protection and associated international legal issues.
- 5- Ethnic conflicts in post-soviet space and, political and legal problems of their resolution.
- 6- Legal aspects of compensation for economic damages to Azerbaijan as a result of Armenian aggression.
- 7- Restoration of violated rights of Azerbaijani refugees and displaced persons.