**American University of Central Asia**

**NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION PROGRAM 2025**

**LANGUAGE AND THINKING PROGRAM**

**“THE BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE”**

Welcome, dear AUCA freshmen! The New Student Orientation Program is designed to facilitate the transition between your previous learning experience and the one that awaits you at the university. Our program events are packed with academic, social, and community service-learning activities that foster development, freedom, and AUCA’s values as a liberal arts institution.

This year’s Language and Thinking (L&T) program has adopted the theme of **“THE BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE”.** This program is a part of the core-humanities program for all AUCA students and is a pre-requisite for the core course during the freshman year – First Year Seminar. The goal of the L&T academic sessions is to introduce freshmen to the interdisciplinary and challenging study ethos of AUCA, which includes creative, yet fun, learning experiences and intensive writing across a variety of genres and texts. You will read, explore, and work extensively on texts through writing and other creative approaches. Although it might be difficult to imagine what to expect in your first weeks of university, our goal is to enable you to experience a glimpse of the challenging and unique intellectual learning culture in a liberal arts institution in Central Asia.

While you as new students might be wondering how you can savor all activities that will last for two weeks, bear in mind that the AUCA New Student Orientation Program is a great way to start an exciting journey in your university life and beyond; as well as to make new friends and lasting memories. Make the most of it as you read through all the material (given in an orientation package) and actively participate in the events planned for you.

We hope that you will learn not only important information on academic issues, institutional policies, and regulations; but also gain a first-hand understanding of the liberal arts learning within a diverse community while making social connections that will remain with you throughout your academic career and beyond. We look forward to your active participation as we welcome you to our AUCA community!

**ATTENDANCE OF ALL ACADEMIC SESSIONS IS MANDATORY.**

**YOU CANNOT MISS ANY OF THE L&T ACADEMIC SESSIONS IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE A PASSING GRADE FOR THE ACADEMIC LANGUAGE AND THINKING PROGRAM.**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 11**

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| **Time** | **EVENT** | **LOCATION – Responsible office/person** |
| **8:30– 9:10** | **REGISTRATION/CHECK-IN**   * Find your department and receive an orientation T-shirt at the desk | **AUCA OUTSIDE LAWN**  In front of the AUCA building (south side)   * Office managers of major programs * Student Life Office * Volunteers * Admission Office * International Office * PR Office * Security * Medical Office |
| **9:10– 9:30** | **STUDENT “MIXER”** | **AUCA OUTSIDE LAWN**  In front of the AUCA building (south side)   * Student Life Office * Volunteers |
| **9:30–10:00** | **WELCOMING CEREMONY**   * AUCA PRESIDENT/VPAA (Speech) | **FORUM**   * AUCA President/VPAA * Student Life Office * PROffice |
| **10:00–10:10** | **Break** |  |
| **10:10–11:20** | **Academic Session 1** | **Group # - Room #**  1 – G 34  2 – G 35  3 – 203  4 – 204  5 – 205  6 – 206  7 - 207  8- 303  9 – 304  10 – 306  11 – 307  12 – 308  13 – 309  14 – 406  15 – 407  16 – 408  17 – 409  18 – 435   * Corresponding Orientation Faculty |
| **11:20–11:30** | **Break** |  |
| **11:30–12:40** | **Academic Session 2** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **12:40–13:40** | **Lunch Break** | **Kitchenette area** |
| **13:40–14:50** | **Academic Session 3** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **14:50–15:10** | **Break** |  |
| **15:10 - 16:10** | **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTER (ASC) INFORMATION SESSION**   * ID/Universal Bank Cards * Study Agreements * Tuition Payment Process | **ALL GROUPS:**  **Groups 1 - 8 > CH I (440)**  **Groups 9 - 13 > Room 434**  **Groups 14 - 18 > Room 410**   * Administrative Services Center |
| **16:10 –17:10** | **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS INFORMATION SESSION**   * Visa * Registration * Counseling Service/ Health Insurance * Student Accommodation/Dormitory * Q & A | **CH I (Room 440)**  **All new international students**   * International Student Office (ISO) * Administrative Services Center (ASC) * Medical Office * Counseling Service Center * AUCA Dormitory Coordinator |

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 12**

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| **Time** | **EVENT** | **LOCATION** - **Responsible Office** |
| **9:30 –10:40** | **Academic Session 1** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **10:40–10:50** | **Break** |  |
| **10:50–12:00** | **Academic Session 2** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **12:00–13:00** | **Lunch Break** | **Kitchenette area** |
| **13:00 –14:10** | **Academic Session 3** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **14:10 –14:20** | **Break** |  |
| **14:20** - **15:00** | **WRITING AND ACADEMIC RESOURCES CENTER (WARC)** Presentation   * Academic Support Services and Resources for Successful Study * One-on-One Scheduling System | **FORUM**  **Groups 1 - 18**   * WARC Director and WARC Coordinator |
| **15:00 - 15:40** | **MEDICAL OFFICE Presentation**   * Requirements for medical documents for all students * Medical Services/First Aid/ Student Health/Vaccinations Information | **FORUM**  **Groups 1 - 18**   * Medical Office |
| **15:40** -**16:10** | **“GREEN AUCA”** Initiative **Presentation**   * Recycling and Sustainability | **FORUM**  **Groups 1 - 18**   * ‘Green AUCA’ Team |
| **16:10 -16:20** | **Break** |  |
| **16:20 –18:45** | **SURVIVAL DAY “AUCA-GRAPHIA”** | **FORUM / CH I / GYM**  **All freshmen**   * Student Life Office * Volunteers * Medical Office |

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13**

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| **Time** | **EVENT** | **LOCATION – Responsible Office** |
| **9:30–10:40** | **Academic Session 1** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **10:40–10:50** | **Break** |  |
| **10:50–12:00** | **Academic Session 2** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **12:00–13:00** | **Lunch Break** | **Kitchenette area** |
| **13:00–14:00** | **ACADEMIC SUCCESS at AUCA**   * Academic Expectations * Components of the Bachelor Degree * General Education Requirements/ Course Options + the First-Year Overview * Learning Skills * Q & A | **ALL FRESHMEN:**  **Groups 1 - 8 > CH I (440)**  **Groups 9 - 13 > Room 434**  **Groups 14 - 18 > Room 410**   * Academic Advising Office * General Education Department Co-Chairs |
| **14:00 - 14:10** | **Break** |  |
| **14:10 –14:45** | **STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE**   * Anti-harassment policy * Communication and social media practices * Diversity and inclusion * Code of students’ rights, responsibilities, and conduct | **FORUM**  **Groups 1 - 18**   * Student Life Officer |
| **14:45-15:30** | **“UNIQUE SPIRIT”**   * Life Outside the Classroom * Student Involvement Opportunities | **FORUM**  **Groups 1 - 18**   * AUCA Art Director * Student Life Office * Volunteers |
| **15:30 -15:40** | **Break** |  |
| **15:40 –17:40** | **KYRGYZ LANGUAGE PLACEMENT EXAM** | **ALL FRESHMEN:**  **Groups 1 - 8 > CH I (440)**  **Groups 9 - 13 > Room 434**  **Groups 14 - 18 > Room 410**   * General Education Department |

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 14**

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| **Time** | **EVENT** | **LOCATION - Responsible Office** |
| **9:30 –10:40** | **Academic Session 1** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **10:40 –10:50** | **Break** |  |
| **10:50 –12:00** | **Academic Session 2** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **12:00 –13:00** | **Lunch Break** | **Kitchenette area** |
| **13:00 –14:10** | **Academic Session 3** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **14:10 – 14:20** | **Break** |  |
| **14:20 –15:00** | **INTRODUCTION TO ONLINE REGISTRATION and PREPARING A STUDY SCHEDULE**   * Online registration tutorial <http://study.auca.kg> | **ALL FRESHMEN:**  **Groups 1 - 8 > CH I (440)**  **Groups 9 - 13 > Room 434**  **Groups 14 - 18 > Room 410**   * Registrar’s Office Specialists |
| **15:00 –15:10** | **Break** |  |
| **15:10 – 15:40** | **COUNSELING SERVICE at AUCA**   * Overcoming Challenges of the First Year * Appointment System | **FORUM**  **Groups 1 - 18**   * Counseling Service Office |
| **15:40 – 16:10** | **Civic Engagement Center (CCE) and Student Initiative Development Program (SIDP)** Presentation | **FORUM**  **Groups 1 - 18**   * CCE Executive Director |
| **16:10 – 16:40** | **CAMPUS SECURITY AND FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION SESSION**   * Facilities for students with disabilities * Q & A | **FORUM**  **Groups 1 - 18**   * Physical Plant Department Director |
| **16:40 – 17:40** | **LIBRARY SESSION and USER X**   * Library and IT services on campus | **FORUM**  Parallel Session for **Groups 1 - 18**   * Library, IT |

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 15**

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| **Time** | **EVENT** | **LOCATION - Responsible Office** |
| **9:30 –10:40** | **Academic Session 1** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **10:40 –10:50** | **Break** |  |
| **10:50 –12:00** | **Academic Session 2** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **12:00 –13:00** | **Lunch Break** | **Kitchenette area** |
| **13:00 –14:10** | **Academic Session 3** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **14:10 –14:20** | **Break** |  |
| **14:20 –14:50** | **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY at AUCA:**  **Anti-plagiarism Session** | **FORUM**  **Groups 1 - 18**   * WARC Director |
| **14:50 -15:00** | **Break** |  |
| **15:00 -16:00** | **MEETING WITH ASSIGNED FACULTY ADVISORS**   * Online registration tutorial https://study.auca.kg   **\*Office Managers** of all undergraduate programs bring departmental CHECKLISTS for freshmen to this meeting | **ALL FRESHMEN:**  **AMI** – Room **309**  **ANTH** - Room **207**  **BA** – Room **410**  **ECON** – Room **220**  **ESCS** - Room **304**  **IBL** – Room **435**  **ICP** – Room **G34**  **JMC** – Room **307**  **LAS** – Room **G35**  **PSY** - Room **434**  **SFW** – CH I (**440)**  **SOC** – Room **308**  **TCMA –** Room **306**   * Faculty Advisors/Advisors * Office Managers of Academic Programs |
| **16:00 - 16:10** | **Break** |  |
| **16:10 - 18:00** | **BODY MOVING DAY** | **FORUM**  **Groups 1 - 18**   * Student Life Office * Volunteers |

**MONDAY, AUGUST 18**

**Reminder: *The deadline for submission of a student portfolio is* August 22**

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| **Time** | **EVENT** | **LOCATION - Responsible Office** |
| **9:30–10:40** | **Academic Session 1** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **10:40 –10:50** | **Break** |  |
| **10:50 –12:00** | **Academic Session 2** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **12:00 -13:00** | **Lunch Break** | **Kitchenette area** |
| **13:00 –14:10** | **Academic Session 3** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **14:10 –14:20** | **Break** |  |
| **14:20 –15:20** | **Q&A SESSION:**  **GOOD ADVICE AND GOOD QUESTIONS**   * ***Meeting with Department Chairs and Office Managers of all Undergraduate Academic Programs*** | **ALL FRESHMEN:**  **AMI** – Room **309**  **ANTH** - Room **207**  **BA** – Room **410**  **ECON** – Room **220**  **ESCS** - Room **304**  **IBL** – Room **435**  **ICP** – Room **G34**  **JMC** – Room **307**  **LAS** – Room **G35**  **PSY** - Room **434**  **SFW** – CH I (**440)**  **SOC** – Room **308**  **TCMA –** Room **306**   * Department Chairs/Program Coordinators * Office Managers |
| **15:20 -15:30** | **Break** |  |
| **15:30 -16:30** | **RUSSIAN LANGUAGE PLACEMENT EXAM**  Paper-based tests will be conducted by the General Education department | **ALL FRESHMEN:**  **Students from KR** – CH I (440)  **Students from CIS countries** –  Room 434  **Other international students** –  Room 410   * General Education Department |
| **16:30-16:40** | **Break** |  |
| **16:40-17:30** | **AUCA THEATER “MIRRORS”** presentation | **CH I**  **Groups 1 - 18**   * AUCA Art Director * Student Life Office * Volunteers |
| **17:30- 19:00** | **“STAR ACADEMY”** rehearsals | **Groups 1 – 18 (Any available rooms)**   * Volunteers |

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 19**

**(DEADLINE** FOR THE**MINI-INTELLECTUAL ESSAY SUBMISSION!)**

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| **Time** | **EVENT** | **LOCATION - Responsible Office** |
| **9:30–10:40** | **Academic Session 1** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **10:40–10:50** | **Break** |  |
| **10:50–12:00** | **Academic Session 2** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **12:00-13:00** | **Lunch Break** | **Kitchenette area** |
| **13:00–14:10** | **Academic Session 3** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **14:10–14:20** | **Break** |  |
| **14:20-15:00** | **FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES** | **Groups 1 - 9 - CH I (440)**  **Groups 10 - 18 - Room 410**   * Scholarships and Financial Aid Office |
| **15:00- 15:30** | **CTLT Welcome to Digital AUCA** - Building responsible digital habits - Navigating the e-Course platform with confidence - Accessible learning: tools that support everyone | **FORUM**  **Groups 1 – 18**  Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology   * CTLT Director * Senior Specialist for E-Learning |
| **15:30-16:10** | **CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**   * Career Prospects * On-Campus Employment Opportunities for Students * Career Preparation and Skill Building | **FORUM**  **Groups 1 - 18**   * Career Development Office |
| **16:10 -16:20** | **Break** |  |
| **16:20– 18:00** | **“STAR ACADEMY”** rehearsals | **CH I (Room 440)**  **Groups 1 - 18**   * Student Life Office * Volunteers |

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20**

***REGISTRATION FOR COURSES***

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| **Time** | **EVENT** | **LOCATION - Responsible Office** |
| **9:30 - 10:40** | **Academic Session 1** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **10:40– 10:50** | **Break** |  |
| **10:50 – 12:00** | **Academic Session 2** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **12:00 – 13:00** | **Lunch Break** | **Kitchenette area** |
| **13:00–18:00** | **ONLINE REGISTRATION for COURSES**  **Faculty Advisors** are available to help you with registration based on the major you are enrolled in.  **AUCA COMPUTER LABS** (G31, G30, 233, 223, 433, and 432) ARE OPEN FROM 13:00 to 18:00! | * **Faculty advisors** are available in relevant departments (find your department office) * Please visit your departments for additional information or email your department chair for additional information * Rooms **G31, G30, 233, 223, 433, 432 are available for registration** |

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 21**

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| **Time** | **EVENT** | **LOCATION - Responsible Office** |
| **9:30-10:40** | **Academic Session 1** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **10:40 - 10:50** | **Break** |  |
| **10:50 -12:00** | **Academic Session 2** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **12:00-13:00** | **Lunch Break** | **Kitchenette area** |
| **13:00 - 14:10** | **Academic Session 3** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **14:10 - 14:20** | **Break** |  |
| **14:20 –15:00** | **“SHARED READING BY STUDENTS & FACULTY”**  (The whole L&T community (students and faculty) share pieces of writing they have produced during the program) | **CH I – Groups 1 - 7**  **Room 410 – Groups 8 - 12**  **Room 434 – Groups 13 - 16**  **Room 435 – Groups 17, 18**   * Language and Thinking Faculty * All freshmen |
| **15:00-15:10** | **Break** |  |
| **15:10–17:00** | **“STAR ACADEMY” – Final Performance** | **FORUM**  **Groups 1 - 18**   * Student Life Office * Volunteers * Director of AUCA Freshman Orientation Program |

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 22**

**STUDENT PORTFOLIOS ARE DUE!**

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| **Time** | **EVENT** | **LOCATION - Responsible Office** |
| **10:00 - 11:10** | **Academic Session 1** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **11:10- 11:20** | **Break** |  |
| **11:20 –12:30** | **Academic Session 2** | **Groups 1 - 18** in their respective rooms   * Language and Thinking Faculty |
| **12:30 –13:30** | **Lunch Break** | **Kitchenette area** |
| **13:30 - 15:00** | **Informal Meetings with Department Faculty, Current Students, and Alumni**   * Study Track-related issues * Sharing experiences * Prospects of the major/Career options * Q&A | **ALL FRESHMEN:**  **AMI** – Room **309**  **ANTH** - Room **207**  **BA** – Room **410**  **ECON** – Room **220**  **ESCS** - Room **304**  **IBL** – Room **435**  **ICP** – Room **G34**  **JMC** – Room **307**  **LAS** – Room **G35**  **PSY** - Room **434**  **SFW** – CH I (**440)**  **SOC** – Room **308**  **TCMA –** Room **306** |
| **15:00 -16:30** | **CLOSING CEREMONY**  **“YOU ARE NOT ALONE!”**  **AUCA President** (Closing remarks)  Film showing on  **“ORIENTATION 2025: Our First Steps in AUCA”** | **FORUM**  **Groups 1 - 18**   * AUCA President * AUCA Art Director * Director of AUCA Freshman Orientation Program * Student Life Office * PR Office * Volunteers |

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

**Students will receive either a “PASS” or “FAIL” grade based on their attendance and performance during the Orientation Language and Thinking Program Academic Sessions.**