

THE NEW STAR

independent student newspaper

ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER 21, 2023

I pledge to make my every effort

**TO REPRESENT THE INTERESTS
OF THE STUDENT BODY...**

Design taken from Pinterest
Photos taken from AUCA website

Exchange,
field trip story

PAGE 3



WARC is a free
tutoring service...

PAGE 5



What would be
your slogan if...

PAGE 7



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If you can solve a problem out there in the real world, then you are a leader out there in the real world.

My perception of the AUCA's educational system.

Since 2018, I have celebrated my graduation from my undergraduate period with one dream in my heart and mind- earning a master's degree from an American university. Paulo Coelho in his famous book, the Alchemist, writes: "And, when you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it." This inspiring piece helped me to face my fear and stay committed to achieving my dream. After four years with many ups and downs, hopes, and disappointments, I have finally been given a scholarship from the US government to do my Master's degree at the American University of Central Asia (AUCA).

Before coming to the AUCA, I was working as a Field Monitoring and Evaluation Officer in a remote and deprived province of Afghanistan named Daikundi. On a sunny day, I received an email from the admission office of the AUCA congratulating me on being accepted into the MA in Anthropology, Urbanism, and International Development program. Despite my superficial information about the university, I had no idea about the AUCA and its educational system in depth. Frankly, I was thinking about how AUCA trains the next leaders of Central Asia and beyond.

Since my arrival to Bishkek on August 22nd, 2023, a couple of stories shaped my life that are worth sharing and one of them is my perception of the AUCA's educational system. As the higher academic system in which I completed my bachelor's degree was not satisfying for me, I approached the university's educational system consciously and closely to know how it works.

Learn the art of thinking by manipulating the thoughts. The AUCA's educational system, on the one side, exposes you to the most related educational materials, encourages you to review them, helps you to discuss them, and exposes you to new questions for thinking and on the other side, applies critical thinking by providing controversial ideas related to the same topic. This approach not only helps you to get a comprehensive insight but also encourages you to think deeper about the world around you.

Learn the art of researching by questioning. The AUCA's educational system sticks your brain to the thoughts, concepts, and theories and encourages you to have questions in your mind. With questions in your mind, you will look for answers, and you will find yourself either in the library or the field doing research.

Consequently, the AUCA smartly balances theory, research, and practical works that help to face our beliefs, analyze them, question them, and rebuild them with strong foundations. Moreover, it helps to change our mindsets, by attempting to give us a medium to look for the reality of the world and its challenges and then encourage us to become part of solutions by equipping us with practical skills. Nowadays, as you could solve a problem out there, undoubtedly you are a leader out there.

Farhad Ehsani
MA-ANTH 123

Exchange, field trip story (student experience)

My name is Sabina Lidintsay, I'm a senior student at the LAS department with a concentration in sociology. I have been interested in Korea since childhood, and I have always dreamed of studying and traveling there. I have always seen Korea as a multifunctional and developed country in various areas. Moreover, I'm interested in the film industry, I love watching Korean dramas and listening to K-pop. And as you know, Korea is most famous in the film industry. That's why I wanted to do an exchange in South Korea to get more knowledge in the TV industry.

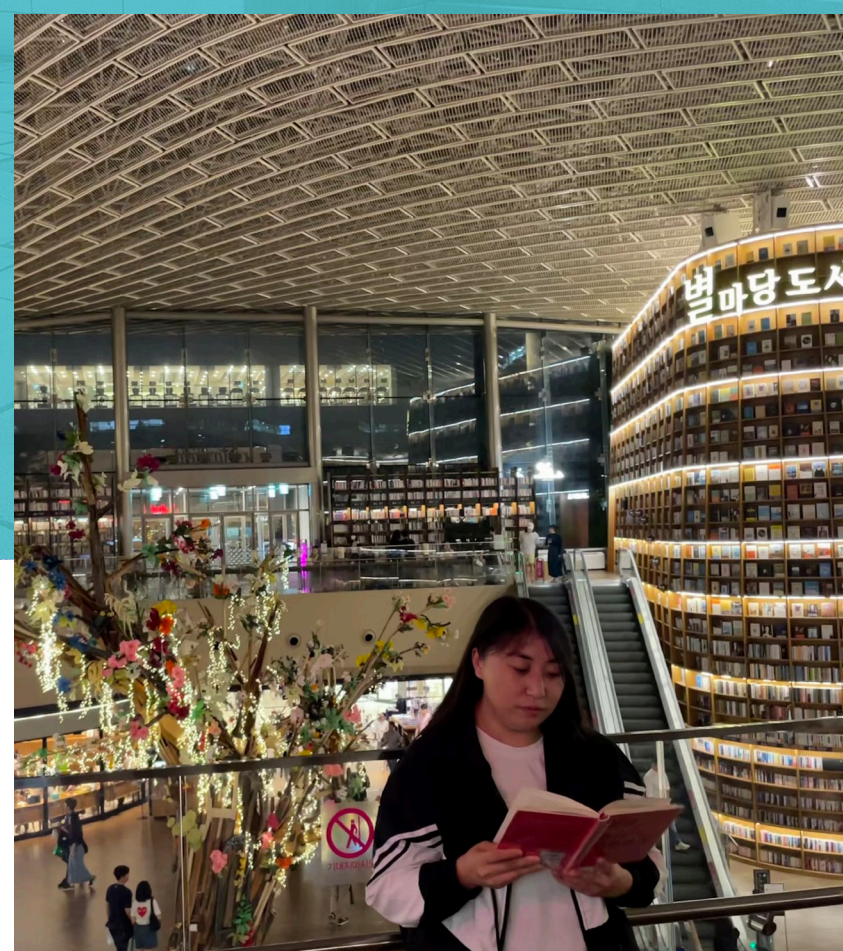
When I entered AUCA, I found out that it was possible to study abroad in different countries, and I immediately set a goal for myself to go to Korea. The path to achieve my dream was hard because during my studies there was a quarantine so it was hard to go to another country. But my dream to go to Korea has never left me alone. I always strived to achieve my goal and fulfill my dream. In my junior year, I knew that it was my last chance to achieve my dream, and I didn't want to lose it. I started to work hard and prepare all the necessary documents to not lose this opportunity. Finally, last spring semester I was accepted into an exchange program at Hannam University in South Korea. I chose Hannam University because it has a strong program in TV studies, as well as a variety of other courses that I was interested in.

At Hannam University, I took courses in TCMA, sociology, Korean culture, and debate. I learned about TV production, social and cultural factors, Korean history, and culture. Furthermore, I was able to improve my Korean proficiency and learn how to debate in Korean. I am grateful for the opportunity to have studied at Hannam University and to have learned from wonderful professors from different countries. Thanks to this exchange program I was able to try myself in different areas, gain invaluable experience, and new knowledge.

During my summer holidays in Korea, I had the opportunity to travel to different cities there and visit famous places and museums. One of my favorite experiences was visiting the National Museum of Korea and Gyeongbokgung Palace, the main royal palace of the Joseon Dynasty. At the National Museum of Korea, I was amazed by the vast collection of artifacts and artworks that tell the story of Korean history and culture. At Gyeongbokgung Palace, I was able to step back in time and imagine what life was like at the Joseon royal court, and I was able to wear a traditional Korean dress. I was particularly impressed by the throne room and the Hall of Heavenly Purity.

I also had the opportunity to experience Korean culture by visiting traditional markets and trying delicious street food. I learned how to make bibimbap, a popular Korean dish, and enjoyed sampling other local favorites such as bulgogi and kimchi. I am so grateful for the opportunity to have studied and traveled in Korea. It was an unforgettable experience, and I will cherish the memories forever.

AUCA is a place that is always ready to support students and where every student can develop their knowledge and skills to achieve their goals. Students just need to believe in themselves and work hard. I am grateful to AUCA and the OSI scholarship program for opening a golden door of opportunity for me, also I want to thank the NGA, LAS department, and my friends for their support and belief in me. Thanks to your support, my dream has come true!



Lockers on AUCA Campus: A Closer Look at the **Pros** and **Cons**

For the past two years, I frequently used my campus locker. That is quite helpful to me because I live far away. I'll just leave things in my locker so I won't have a big weight with me. For instance, I can leave my laptop, books, and extra clothes. In my case, having a locker on many occasions made my time at the university much better. I don't have to bring extra items with me to every lesson. I can just store them in the locker instead. All in all, it's quite practical and helpful. In general, getting a locker is a rather easy process. Choose the floor where your locker will be placed first. Selecting the middle floors—the second, for instance—is recommended.

Pick the floor that you will spend the most time on, taking into account your hobbies and activities. Since the basement is where my classes are held most of the time and the dressing room is close by, it was a simple choice for me. Secondly, to avoid having to bend over every time, try to get a locker that is on top if you are not short. Refrain from making the same mistakes I did and maintain a tidy and organized locker. Then you must first purchase a lock and key from the store. To register on campus, find a free locker and proceed to room 214. They typically request your student ID and phone number. You are then free to use your locker.

I can note a couple of problems that may or are already arising.

Theft. As I mentioned before, having a locker does not ensure that your possessions will be protected. Someone might try to break the lock of your locker and take your belongings. Purchase a sturdy lock, avoid storing expensive stuff, and select lockers that are visible from the security cameras to prevent such issues.

Abuse. Some students may use lockers for purposes other than their intended purpose and store prohibited and dangerous items. Fortunately, at our university, there are video surveillance cameras everywhere and security guards check every person who enters the building.

Eluding. Occasionally, an incident may occur where someone purposefully or unintentionally damages your locker, requiring repairs. In these situations, you must get in touch with the security staff and make the culprit pay a fine.

Throughout my two years as a student, I have never observed locker usage that isn't ordinary. I think a lot of people use it for what it's meant to. Nonetheless, I frequently observe how some creative students decorate their lockers in very cute and hilarious ways.

Interviewee: Dastan Zhusupbekov

**By Darika Bolot
JMC-121**



WARC is a free tutoring service to help AUCA students

Hello everyone! My name is Nurbubu and it is such a great pleasure to tell you about WARC as one of the newly joined Writing Tutors.

WARC, which stands for the Writing and Academic Resource Center at AUCA, is a place where you can get free one-on-one help in various subjects like Writing, Math, Economics, and more. If you're having trouble with specific topics or need extra help outside regular hours, WARC is here to support you. As a student, I was introduced to the concept of "tutoring" for the first time as a Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX) finalist studying for one year in a U.S. high school. This experience showed me how helpful it is to get assistance from experts when you're dealing with academic questions.

I chose AUCA because of its American-style education, and discovering the Writing and Academic Resource Center made my experience even better. During my study at the New Generation Academy, I actively used WARC's one-on-one tutoring sessions to catch up on my class topics and overall to improve my academic performance. I truly felt privileged as not every university in Kyrgyzstan offers free tutoring services which makes the academic journey less stressful. After getting the benefits and support from WARC, I also dreamed of becoming one of the future tutors of WARC. Connecting with WARC's mission and my dream of being part of their team, this year, I have joined as one of the writing tutors.

Now, after eight weeks as a Writing Tutor, I'm enjoying the process of assisting students. I want to highlight that the "Writing to Teach You: Theory and Practice of Composition Pedagogy" course helped me a lot to boost not only my writing but also my critical thinking making tutoring seem less complicated. If you also have a desire to become a writing tutor, you need to take the "Writing to Teach You: Theory and Practice of Composition Pedagogy" course, offered only during the spring semester, after completing FYS and SYS classes.

To my fellow AUCA students, I want to highly suggest taking advantage of the free sessions offered by WARC to keep up with your classes as not everyone has this opportunity. You never know what the future holds for you, so just do your best, and invest your time and energy to improve yourself in various ways. If you master certain subjects very well and if you have a desire to share your knowledge with others, there will always be a chance for you to join our lovely WARC Family.

I want to take some time to congratulate WARC on its 13th Birthday which we celebrated on November 1st. I am truly blessed to be part of the crew.

Nurbubu Abdyashim kyzy
LAS-121



Nutrition at the AUCA

Students need to get energy between classes, and food is one of the ways to do it. Therefore, there are enough places at the AUCA where students eat: Kitchenette, Sierra Coffee, Flask Coffee, and Kofemaniya. And a new coffee shop opened right near the campus recently.

I had an interview with AUCA students to learn more about their preferences and opinions about food on campus. Most of the respondents agree that there are many places to eat at AUCA, and they are satisfied with the quality and variety of food and drinks. Here is the chart of these places at the university:

1. Kitchenette
2. Sierra Coffee
3. Coffee Shop near the Campus
4. Kofemaniya
5. Flask Coffee

Most people at AUCA eat in the Kitchenette, you can see it by the huge daily lines at lunchtime. These huge queues are one of the disadvantages that students mentioned in the survey. Responders prefer to eat at the Kitchenette because of the variety and quality of food. And, the prices in this place are lower than in other cafeterias. However, it is only when compared to other places on campus.

Sierra Coffee takes the second place in the chart. Students prefer to eat there because of the diversity and freshness of the food. One person also highlighted that the food is always hot. Some people like their coffee and other drinks. One of the biggest downsides is high prices.

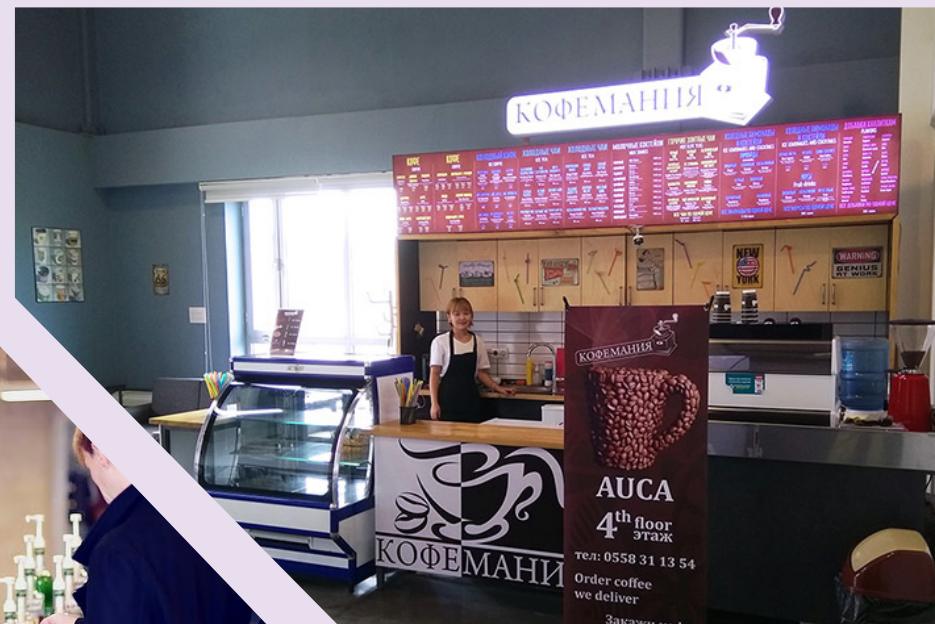
The third place goes to the Coffee Shop near the Campus that has opened recently. Students like to go there because of the delicious food, cheaper drinks, design, and overall atmosphere. Also, some respondents mentioned that there are paper-based dishes; thus, they think about ecology.

The next place is Kofemaniya. They have no food but some snacks. Students love them because of the tasty and cheap drinks. Many respondents mentioned that Kofemaniya makes the best coffee at the AUCA.

The last one is Flask Coffee. Some respondents said that they like this place because they have positions on the menu that are not available in other places, and some people prefer Flask because there are no queues. However, many students complain that prices are too high. Some students highlighted that it is the most expensive place at the university.

Overall, students of AUCA are satisfied with the variety and quality of the food and drinks at the university. The biggest problem for almost all students is excessive prices. Even if some places at the AUCA are cheaper than others they are still considered pricey. So, students either bring their food or eat off the campus.

Kibrie Kadamshoeva
JMC-121



VOX POP:

What would be your slogan if you were a brand?

By : Almazbek kyzy, Anipa

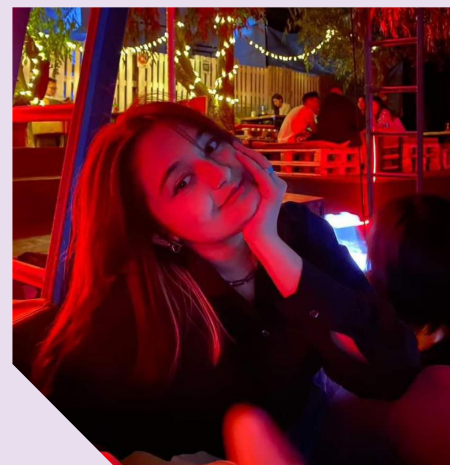


Luna Maltseva, SFW-123

Always on line, always on time.

Tazarfbregim Shovalieva, BA-122

Dare to dream, Live to Achieve.



Mazhitova Alisa, PSY-122

All or nothing.

* Before I take on a certain task, I understand that I have to give 100%. Poor results are not for me. So if I take on something, I need to be motivated and give my maximum.

Nurbubu Abdyashim kyzy, LAS-122

Strive for progress, not perfection by starting where you are, using what you have, and doing what you can.



Malika Zhumalieva, TCMA-122

The flower that blooms in adversity is the rarest and the most beautiful one.

Aliakbar Azizzoda, ECO-121

*Harmony in Numbers and Rhythms.
Nurturing Intellect, Spreading Kindness.*



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