

THE NEW STAR

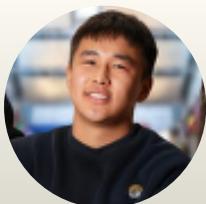
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STORY



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Studying Abroad: An Unforgettable Experience



For many students, studying abroad is not only an opportunity to get new knowledge but also a chance to get out of their 'comfort zone'. Elvina shared with us just such an experience. She is a sophomore student of the Economics department. And in the Fall semester, she was in Poland, in Poznań.

In Elvina's words, the main motive for participating in the program was the desire to try herself in an entirely new environment. Originally, she was an international student from Uzbekistan. And she didn't stop in Kyrgyzstan, and has gone beyond the territories of Central Asia. "It was my first time away from home. I want to explore the educational system in Poland and understand their culture," shares Elvina. From the perspective of education, she didn't face any serious problems. The base, gaining in AUCA, let her quickly adapt to the new requirements. The only visible barrier became a language. Despite it, the Polish language, on the whole, seemed understandable to her. Of course, the first weeks passed difficult, but the adoption period went unnoticed, and she started to freely conceive the information.

Even if the adaptation period went smoothly, Elvina shared some features of Poland. Firstly, the stores didn't work on Sundays. It was a surprising moment for her, but with time, she got used to it. The second feature was a lack of activities in university life. As she remembered: "In AUCA, we had a lot of different events, fairs, and festivals. But life on campus in Poland was more focused on the academic part". However, the situation changed when Elvina became part of the Erasmus community. Exactly there, she could make up for the lack of social activity: students by themselves organized the meetings, events, and shared leisure time. It helped not only to diversify the academic life, but also to meet people from different countries. Another advantage was the location of Poznań. Due to its convenient geographical location, Elvina had an opportunity to travel within Poland, as well as in other European countries. It helped her to dive into the region's culture and expand her horizon.

Elvina paid special attention to the differences in educational approaches. The core difference became a relation to the AI usage in the study process. If in AUCA we had a non-tolerance to AI platforms, in Poland, on the contrary, they encourage the competent implementation of technologies. "We were taught to use AI as a tool that complements knowledge, not replaces it," – Elvina makes a crucial point. This approach, in her opinion, makes learning more modern and effective.

Concluding her special experience, Elvina, with determination, will come back to Poland. "I was as comfortable as possible in this environment. I realized that it was right for me," – with a smile, Elvina finishes her story. In the future, she considers further ways to continue studying abroad. For example, a Master's degree, taking an internship abroad, or applying to international programs.

Elvina's experience shows us that studying abroad is not just academic growth, but also personal development. It is a good moment to discover a new side of oneself, to learn how to adapt to unexpected situations, and to look at the world from a new perspective.

Small yet Enormous: What My Exchange in Norway Taught Me

Drizzling cold, the darkest night, and a gentle whisper of wind. I stood under the Arctic sky in Tromsø, one of the northernmost cities in the world, a place that I would have never imagined calling my home before my exchange semester. At that moment, even the freezing Norwegian air could not compete with the warmest anticipation growing inside me. Suddenly, it happened: the sky moved. It was as if it spilled its most precious shade of emerald across the darkness, painting the heavens in motion. The entire sky turned into a canvas, with the light dancing above the snow-covered mountains, alive and untouchable.

It was the first time I saw the Aurora Borealis. And as the sky came alive, I felt myself becoming smaller and smaller, almost invisible in comparison to the dancing night lights. How mighty nature truly is... A few days later, I found myself in an open field, feeding reindeer: gentle creatures of the Arctic. Standing so close to them, the rhythm of my heart seemed to beat in unison with their presence: softly and peacefully. Once again, that magical feeling returned: I was not observing nature from outside, but was a part of it. Surrounded by silence, mountains, and endless landscapes, my mind grew quieter than ever before. Being on exchange, away from everything familiar, made me more attentive to my surroundings, to my thoughts, and to myself. The absence of noise outside created a sense of clarity within. And with that clarity came a realization: we, as humans, are not separate from nature but a small part of it. Yet in modern life, we often forget this, placing ourselves above the very world that sustains us. Standing in front of something so vast and powerful, I felt small, but not in a diminishing way. There was something deeply comforting in that smallness, as if it gently reminded me that the calmness we all are searching for is much simpler to obtain than we think: the key is to be more attentive to our surroundings, more respectful to nature, to care not because we must but because we belong to it. Somewhere between the dancing northern lights and the quiet presence of reindeer, I discovered this insight. The realization that no classroom could fully teach. An exchange semester is not only about studying abroad, but also about experiencing life in a way that transforms your perspective and shapes you as a person. It places you in unique environments where growth becomes inevitable.

And that is what my exchange semester in Norway continues to give me daily: not just theories and chapters to read, but a new way of seeing and understanding myself in relation to the world. Perhaps that is why an exchange semester is worth taking, whether in the warmth of the hottest countries or the cold of the Arctic; each place holds precious insights waiting to help you grow.

Erkaiym Zhanybekova
PSY-123



Speed Sociology

On the 3rd of April, the Sociology Club launched its first meeting of the semester, bringing students from the sociology department and the NGA together to discuss different social issues and exchange ideas. The first event, called "Speed Sociology," was designed to introduce participants to different sociological issues and phenomena. Instead of a traditional lecture-style meeting, our goal was to create a space where students could freely participate, share opinions, and explore different perspectives on daily social topics. We wanted to demonstrate that sociology can be both intellectually stimulating and accessible for everyone.

The format of the meeting was inspired by the idea of quick and dynamic speed discussion. Participants were given short statements about different social issues and had a limited amount of time to discuss their perspectives with different students. The statements covered a variety of everyday topics, from social norms and equality to the influence of culture on individual behavior. After each round, students rotated to a different partner. This gave everyone the opportunity to engage with a variety of viewpoints and practice expressing their own ideas.

Throughout the event, our judges observed the discussions and evaluated each participant based on several criteria, including the strength of their arguments, their ability to recall others' viewpoints, and at the end of the meeting, two participants were selected as winners. The event created a lively and welcoming atmosphere that encouraged students from different backgrounds to share their perspectives. Beyond the competitive element, the main objective for the meeting was to foster curiosity about sociology and promote meaningful conversations about the social aspects of the world that we often take for granted.

Our club plans to continue organizing similar events in the future, hoping to provide students with more opportunities to explore sociological ideas, develop critical thinking skills, and connect with others who share an interest in understanding society.

Dustamamadova Shamafruz
SOC-123



My Journey to NGA



My journey to the New Generation Academy started with a simple idea: I wanted to grow. Not just get better grades, but change who I am. I come from a small village in the Naryn region. Growing up there, it's easy to feel like your path is already set for you. But I always wanted more, not for comfort, but for the challenge and a sense of purpose.

Before NGA, I was already trying to push my limits. I took part in Olympiads, volunteered, started my own club, and even ran a free English-speaking course at my school. I wanted to create opportunities for others, not just myself. My military service taught me discipline and responsibility, but I knew I needed a serious academic challenge to really reach my potential. Applying to NGA was one of the toughest things I've ever done. Between the tests and the interviews, I constantly doubted myself. I kept thinking, "There are so many talented students out there—why would they pick me?" But then I looked back at everything I had already handled. I had started from zero before and kept moving. Why stop now? When I got in, it didn't feel like I had reached the finish line; it felt like the real work was just beginning. The workload was intense. I had to fix my writing, learn to think critically, and figure out how to express my ideas clearly. At first, it was overwhelming. The deadlines were tight, and the expectations were high. But step by step, I adapted. I stopped being afraid of the pressure and started seeing it as a way to improve.

NGA changed more than just my skills; it changed my mindset. I became more punctual and organized. I stopped waiting for "motivation" and started relying on consistency and discipline. Being surrounded by so many ambitious students was intimidating at first, but it eventually became my fuel. I started setting higher standards for myself, focusing on the details and refusing to settle for "good enough." At the same time, I learned how much people matter. Coming from a village, it was a new experience to be surrounded by peers who constantly push you to be better. I've made close friends here who support me and share this journey with me. These relationships made me more open and more confident in how I carry myself.

Looking back, I can see how much I've changed. I am more disciplined, more focused, and much more competitive. Most importantly, I no longer see my background as a limitation. NGA didn't just give me knowledge; it reshaped how I see the world. It showed me that where you come from doesn't define how far you can go. Growth is uncomfortable, but it's necessary. I've proven to myself that even if you start in a small village, you can compete at the highest level if you're willing to put in the work. I didn't just improve at NGA, I transformed.

Daniel Sariev





Being a Peer Advisor at the Academic Advising Center

If I were asked to describe AUCA in three words, I would choose: support, community, and practical knowledge. I can speak about our university with deep gratitude because it has given me not only a wide range of knowledge and opportunities for growth, but also helped me discover myself. One of those opportunities was becoming part of the Academic Advising Center as a Peer Advisor.

Being a Peer Advisor has become one of the most meaningful experiences of my university journey. I used to think it was simply about helping students build schedules or explaining how things work. In reality, it is something much deeper. Sometimes it is about saying “you’ve got this” at the right moment or sharing your own story of ups and downs. Without even realizing it, you become a guide for someone else. I still remember the first time a freshman came up to me with a confused look and asked, “Am I doing everything right?” and I realized I had asked myself the same question not so long ago. AUCA doesn’t give you a fixed path; instead, it teaches you how to create your own, learning from others along the way. And honestly, my favorite part is seeing students come in confused and leave with clarity and confidence. In those moments, I truly feel that what I do matters. When it comes to getting the most out of AUCA, my advice is simple: do not be afraid to try everything and hold on to every opportunity. Learn to see beyond your class schedule. AUCA offers a unique environment where you can speak to professors as equals, ask any questions, make mistakes, fall, and rise again with the support of incredible people around you.

Classrooms here are just a starting point; real learning often happens in spontaneous hallway conversations. It is a place where ideas can turn into reality, as long as you are willing to take that first step. AUCA is generous with opportunities, but they reveal themselves only to those who actively reach for them. At the same time, while chasing the “perfect” academic life, it’s easy to forget about social engagement. However, university is also about people, connections, and memories that shape you just as much as your degree. When, if not now, will we explore different perspectives, learn to truly listen to others, try new roles, and step beyond our comfort zones?

Maintaining a balance between academic and social life feels like walking a tightrope – if one side outweighs the other, burnout is inevitable. Discipline, responsibility, and the ability to ask for help are the three pillars that support my academic life. But just as important are the people around you, the conversations, the laughter, and the feeling that **YOU ARE NOT ALONE** in this way. So, my main advice is this: do not just go with the flow – be the author of your own university story because AUCA is where your story takes shape and you start becoming the person you are meant to be.

Ruhsanem Bakieva
LAS-SE-123



Peer Advising Students’ First Aid Center

The real hunger games at AUCA begin when registration for the upcoming semester starts. It is not a simple course selection process but a real battlefield where not the strongest but the fastest survives. Though students have their own checklists, sometimes they may struggle while choosing courses – that is when they refer to their first aid kit or just Peer Advising, where they get help and assistance. Let’s take a closer look at the work of a Peer Advisor at AUCA and understand what the work process looks like from the inside.

The most work is received by Peer Advisors during the registration process or academic orientation. While all of the students are welcome to ask for help, freshmen are the ones who do it more frequently in comparison to others because the academic environment of AUCA is new to them, and it takes time to understand the credit system.

Except for choosing the core major courses, Peer Advisors also explain which courses cover General Education requirements, which ones are counted as electives, and which ones you cannot take because of the prerequisites. But the part that is not seen by students is that Peer Advising is not only about taking courses but also about maintaining a balance in the schedule between academics and personal life to ensure that students will be able to handle all the pressure in a new environment. The best part of Peer Advising, both for Advisors and students, is the opportunity to communicate and simply get advice about academia from those who have gone through this path before. Now, there is an ongoing call for Peer Advisors for the Academic Year 2026-2027 with a deadline on April 20, 2026. Highly encourage interested students not to miss out on this opportunity and apply. Who knows, maybe you will become the next first aid for future students who will help them survive in this battlefield.

Farah Saranjomova
LAS-125

LAS-UPD Trip to Italy



This spring, students from the Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences in Urban Planning and Design went on an educational trip to Italy, which took place from March 5 to 15 during the spring break. The trip was initiated by the students and professors themselves and was aimed at expanding their professional knowledge and practical understanding of architecture and urban environments.

The trip included five cities: Milan, Rome, Genoa, Florence, and Venice. Each city was explored as a learning environment that allowed students to trace the development of European architecture and various urban planning models. During the trip, the students studied architectural sites, historical centers, public spaces, and the features of urban infrastructure. Observing how historical buildings coexist with the city's modern life allowed them to analyze the principles of preserving cultural heritage and the functioning of tourist and residential areas.



The practical part of the trip involved sketching: the students created quick architectural sketches, capturing the compositional solutions, proportions of spaces, and the character of the urban environment. This format allowed them to combine visual exploration with creative practice and gain a deeper understanding of what they had seen. The intensive format of the route made the trip a rich educational experience. The constant movement between cities, the observation of various urban contexts, and the work outside the classroom contributed to the development of a professional perspective and critical analysis of the urban environment. The trip was an example of an initiative aimed at expanding educational experiences independently and strengthening the connection between theoretical knowledge and real architectural practice. The observations and skills gained during the trip will be used by the students in their future educational and project activities.

Gulziyada Sheripova
LAS-125



Top Research Papers Honored – April 2026

Best FYS Paper

This essay compares Plato's Republic and Aeschylus's Prometheus Bound to explore the notion of justice through the authors' literary and rhetorical techniques. It argues that Plato's Socratic dialogue and Aeschylus's use of the drama genre encourage readers to think critically. While Plato presents justice as aiming for social equality through enlightenment and Aeschylus - as the courage to defy authority, both of them imply that justice is only reached through questioning power. Ultimately, wisdom is found in this "form" of questioning.

Read the full paper by clicking this [LINK](#):

Saadat Sharshembieva

Best SYS Paper

This essay describes and analyzes the most consequential environmental problems facing China today. It argues that these issues are air pollution, water scarcity, and soil degradation, since they threaten human health, challenge socioeconomic stability, and are caused by weak governmental enforcement. Notably, these problems are interconnected in a cycled way and together endanger the country's well-being. Moreover, this paper provides as an example of e-waste pollution in Guiyu region that concisely demonstrates how interrelation of air, water and soil pollution damages not only the environment, but also human health.

Read the full paper by clicking this [LINK](#):

Nuraim Asanova



Brain Ring:

How One Day Can Change Your Life

I am a sophomore student of the ICP department. This year, on April 12, it will be two years since my life presented me with one of the best gifts of fate. And all because I took part in the intellectual competition called Brain Ring. But let's start from the very beginning.

March 2024. I'm in the 11th grade, I'm diligently preparing for the republican Olympiad in the Russian language, passing Allyn Tamga (a certificate with honors), and ORT. My everyday life was like a Groundhog Day: school, courses, homework - and again everything in a circle. One day, my friend sends me a publication that an intellectual event will be held in AUCA, and teams of 5 people are invited to participate. Without thinking for a long time, my group of friends decided to apply and take part in the competition. For us, it was a chance to decorate our boring everyday life and have fun together. On the day of X, we arrived in AUCA - we were charmed by the vibe of university life. The student life office worked as always at the highest level: everything was clear in time, volunteers, music, presenter - we felt like participants of some TV show. We were sure that the greatest minds among Bishkek had gathered in this hall, and we, by chance, were among them. Not expecting a positive outcome, we set ourselves up to have a great time and take home only cheerful memories of one of the evenings with friends. And then the Brain Ring began: I, as a representative of our team, took part in the draw, and I got the number 3. "Great!" I thought, since you can look at those who will be the first, and not get too tired, waiting for your turn. My team, during the game, experienced a full range of emotions: delight, misunderstanding, excitement, anger, and joy. In the group competition, unfortunately, we could not win, but according to the results of personal ratings, three of my team members went to the final. I was one of them. Here you can hold your breath: everything happened so fast that I didn't even have time to think. The answers to the questions came to the mind by themselves, the hand was mechanically raised, and the excitement took its toll. I still remember many of the questions we faced. Surprisingly, I was the first to answer the questions and get the wishing scholarship for studying.

Always remembering that day, I feel a pleasant awe and joy for the fact that everything turned out this way. That day, my journey into student life began: I submitted documents for entrance exams, then for admission, and soon began my studies. Brain Ring gave me the opportunity to study at the best university in our country, and for this, I am immensely grateful to the Student Life office. Each of those who work there inspires me to create, dream, and make these dreams come true. That's how the Brain Ring 2024 was: bright, interesting, intriguing, magical. I, in turn, want to wish good luck to all current participants and let the one who deserves it the most win. But here's my advice: try to enjoy the process maximally, and then you can go home with a long-awaited victory!

Lulakova Margarita



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