

Title of the Program: Economics

The programme is carried out with the International School of Economics at Tbilisi State University (ISET)

Academic Degree Offered: PhD in Economics.

Head of the PhD program: Wilfred J. Ethier, Professor of the University of Pennsylvania, ISET Academic Director.

Qualification of the program:

a) Goals and Aims of the Program:

- ✓ To educate highly qualified economists who are on demand by educational institutions, public and private sectors;
- ✓ To conduct research and provide education in economics that meet international standards with regard to the interest of the public and private sectors;
- ✓ To establish new methods of economic research and learning in the South Caucasus.
- ✓ To educate those students (from the South Caucasus) who are not able or who do not wish to continue their studies abroad. Students will be able to get knowledge in accordance with the international standards and get a PhD degree in economics without leaving Georgia.

a) **Learning outcome:** Upon the completion of the program students will be able to demonstrate:

- fundamental knowledge in modern principles and methods of macro and micro economics, transition economics, economic geography, environmental economics, labor economics, monetary and political economics. Students who are able to independently use received knowledge and solve the problems in original way;
- skills for making optimal decisions regarding the role of the government and economic development;
- skills in solving practical problems by using theoretical concepts and approaches;
- multicultural experience as the students get the opportunity to study with the students from the South Caucasus and also work with the professors from Western countries;
- knowledge of modern methods and approaches in economic science
- Teaching skills.

c) **Employment opportunities:** The Program helps to create a new generation of economists with new thinking. Program involves the young people who have desire to teach and conduct research. Graduates of the program will be able to take executive positions in educational and research institutions, as well as in public and private sectors and international organizations in the positions as.

Preconditions for Admission: Admission rules for the program are the same as TSU requirements for admission. More specifically, applicants should satisfy general admission requirements of TSU as well as additional requirement of the dissertation committee of the Faculty of Economics and Business. Applicants should have Master's degree. He/she should know one of foreign languages (English, German, and French – at least B2 level). Specific requirements are shown in the below list:

1. In order to be admitted to the ISET PhD track an applicant must have completed ISET's master's program or its equivalent (in Europe or the US). An acceptable equivalent program for ISET includes master's programs at the New Economics School in Moscow, Kiev School of Economics, CEU program in Economics and other English language programs of European universities. ISET will be the sole judge of whether the program from which the applicant graduated is relevant to ISET's requirements.
2. ISET may admit students into the PhD program who do not have the above-mentioned MA degree (obtained at ISET or from the equivalent program) conditionally and will request first to pass through second year courses at ISET masters program.

Study Component: Doctoral student should earn not less than 180 credits. Study component of the doctoral degree consists of 60 credits; other 120 credits are given to doctoral thesis. Language of instruction is English.

Structure of the PhD Program

1. Teaching components that shall be administered by the TSU:

Name	Status	Number of Credits
Modern Teaching Methods	obligatory	5 credits
Research methods	obligatory	5 credits
Science management	obligatory	5 credits

2. Teaching components that shall be administered by ISET:

Name	Status	Number of Credits
Assistant to Professor	obligatory	15 Credits
Ph D colloquium I	obligatory	5 Credits
Ph D colloquium II	obligatory	5 Credits
Ph D colloquium III	obligatory	5 Credits
Academic writing	obligatory	5 Credits
ISET courses	elective	10 Credits

Research Component: Students must develop a PhD thesis supervised by an ISET faculty and approved by an ISET Dissertation Committee. TSU faculty may jointly co-supervise. Members of the Dissertation Committee should be appointed by the ISET. In order to successfully complete the ISET PhD program, the thesis must be approved by supervisors and a majority of members of the

Dissertation Committee. Students who successfully complete the ISET track will receive a distinct ISET–TSU PhD degree.

Doctoral Thesis – 120 credits

Facilities for the scientific research: ISET’s technical base fully meets program requirements. ISET building is open round the clock. The library provides computer labs and internet connection.

ISET library holds the best collection of economics literature. **The library** provides electronic access to thousands of journals in economics, business and social sciences and electronic libraries such as EconLit, JSTOR and EBSCO, as well as hard copies of modern economic reference materials.

Through collaboration with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, ISET serves as a repository for reports and publications of these organizations. The library is also home to the donated collection of late Princeton University economics professor Robert E. Kuenne, and the social science collection of the Caucasus Research and Resource Centers.

The library is open during the working days from 9:00 AM – 21:30 PM, and from 12:00 – 18:00 PM on weekends. ISET library has quite reading room, multiple workstations and free wi-fi access to the Internet.