

CAMCA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**Fall 2025 Fellows****Ms. Maryam Rayed****Afghanistan**

Ms. Maryam Rayed, 28, is the Founding Director of the Afghanistan Women's Think Tank, an initiative dedicated to advancing access to digital education for girls and women under restrictive conditions in Afghanistan. Before coming to the U.S. as a Fulbright Scholar, she served as Deputy Director of Foreign Relations at Afghanistan's State Ministry for Peace, where she contributed to regional diplomacy and advocated for inclusive peace negotiations. She has also held advisory and technical roles in World Bank-funded development programs focused on gender and local governance. With cross-sectoral experience spanning government, civil society, and international policy, Ms. Rayed brings a deep focus on Afghanistan and the CAMCA region. She is committed to fostering regional cooperation through

women's empowerment, digital innovation, and inclusive governance. Ms. Rayed holds an M.A. in Democracy and Governance from Georgetown University (2023), an M.A. in Gender and Women's Studies from Kabul University (2021), and a B.A. in Sociology and Philosophy from Kabul University (2017). Her academic journey also includes Erasmus+ fellowships in Poland and Germany. Most recently, she served as a Non-Resident Fellow at the Afghanistan Policy Lab at Princeton University, where her research focused on civic space and institutional reform.

Mr. Yuri Avagyan**Armenia**

Mr. Yuri Avagyan, 30, is the Executive Director of the Restart Civic-Youth Foundation, where, since 2019, he has led programs that advance youth civic engagement, democratic participation, and organizational development. Restart's broader mission is to cultivate a new generation of young political leaders in Armenia who uphold democratic values and contribute to an inclusive, accountable society. In this role, Mr. Avagyan provides strategic leadership, oversees program implementation, and represents the foundation in public and policy dialogues. Under his leadership, Restart has established five regional youth offices across Armenia, expanding outreach and strengthening youth participation at the community level. Mr. Avagyan is also an experienced trainer. With Transparency International

Armenia, he trained election observers for municipal and parliamentary elections. At the Eurasia Partnership Foundation, he delivered trainings on critical thinking to strengthen analytical and decision-making skills. He has also managed research on criminal subculture within the Armenian armed forces, offering insights

to support soldier protection and institutional reform. In addition, he hosts three political talk shows on Ites Media, featuring leading political figures and promoting informed debate on key political and social issues in Armenia. He holds a B.A. in Social Work from Yerevan State University (2020).

Mr. Javadkhan Babayev

Azerbaijan



Mr. Javadkhan Babayev, 36, is the Co-Founder and Strategy Director of Avian Group Co., a fast-growing customer relations and advisory firm based in Baku. He leads the company's shareholder strategy, client acquisition, and brand positioning efforts. From 2021-2025, he served as Chief Commercial Officer and Group Deputy CEO at SR Group, where he strengthened the market presence of Mercedes-Benz and Skoda in Azerbaijan, launched Chinese automotive brands including Changan, Lynk & Co, Avatr, Leapmotor, and Xpeng, and expanded operations into Georgia. He also oversaw SR Group's construction division, managing premium residential and commercial projects in Azerbaijan and extending development and construction management activities into Türkiye. Earlier in his career, Mr. Babayev was Head of Marketing & Retail at Samsung Electronics Caucasus, where he elevated the company's premium brand positioning and built the region's top-performing retail team. Other previous roles include marketing and retail leadership positions at PASHA Construction and Gilan Retail Group. In addition to his corporate leadership, Mr. Babayev has taught MBA courses in Marketing Strategy at Azerbaijan State Economic University (UNEC) and provides advisory support on creative F&B concepts. Mr. Babayev holds a M.Sc. in Economics from Friedrich Schiller University of Jena (2014), a B.A. in Administrative Management from the National Aviation Academy of Azerbaijan (2011) and completed the ADP program at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business (2024).

Mr. Rza Aliyev

Azerbaijan

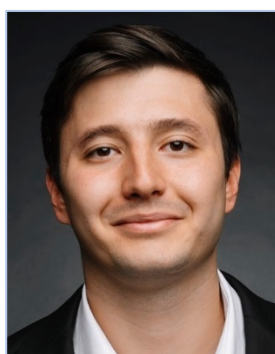


Mr. Rza Aliyev, 36, is the Chief Strategy and Sustainability Officer at the Nizami Ganjavi International Centre, where he leads the strategic growth of one of the world's largest platforms of former and current heads of state and government. He plays a key role in organizing the Global Baku Forum – an annual gathering of 400+ global leaders, including heads of state, Fortune 500 CEOs, Nobel Laureates, and prominent civil society figures. He also serves as a Non-Resident Senior Fellow with the Atlantic Council's Middle East Program and as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Tsinghua University's Schwarzman College. In 2025, he was awarded an honorary *Doctor Honoris Causa* by the University of Georgia in Tbilisi in recognition of his contributions to international cooperation and diplomacy. Mr. Aliyev has over 15 years of international experience across diplomacy, finance, and the energy sector. He has previously held senior positions at BP, at leading banks in the Principality of Andorra, and served as Azerbaijan's Youth Delegate to the United Nations. He holds an M.A. in Global Affairs from Tsinghua University (2017), an M.A. in Diplomacy and International Affairs from ADA University (2011), and a B.A. in Public Administration from the Academy of Public Administration in Baku (2009). He is a member of the Leadership Circle of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and an Associate Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science.



Mr. Davit Dadiani, 37, is the Manager of International Relations and International Programs at the Training Center of Justice (TCJ) under the Ministry of Justice of Georgia. In this role, he coordinates TCJ's relationships with foreign institutions, develops strategic partnerships, and manages international projects and grant-funded initiatives. He brings over a decade of experience across government institutions and the private sector, with expertise in environmental governance and Georgia's justice system. From 2021-2025, he represented Georgia in the Technical Group on Sustainable Aquaculture under the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea, promoting regional cooperation on sustainable blue economy and marine policy.

Mr. Dadiani has played an active role in legislative drafting, Georgia's EU integration processes, and major EU- and FAO-funded regional projects in the Black Sea and beyond. He also served as a Senior Expert for an EBRD-funded feasibility study on establishing a Port Community System in Georgia and previously held positions at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and the National Environmental Agency. He holds a M.Sc. in Maritime Affairs (Maritime Law & Policy) from the World Maritime University in Malmö, Sweden (2018), and an M.A. in International Law from Tbilisi State University (2012).



Mr. Shamil Akhmedov, 27, is a serial entrepreneur and a 2023 Forbes 30 Under 30 honoree in Technology. He is the Co-Founder of Introdex AI, a B2B go-to-market platform that connects companies across the Asia-Pacific and Middle East-North Africa regions. Launched in Singapore through Antler VC, Introdex AI partners with global corporations and innovation hubs to support market entry in more than 15 countries. He is also the Co-Founder of Esqadra, an international IT product group with over 100 employees, which has delivered more projects in fintech, HR tech, and edtech for clients across the U.S., Europe, and Asia. Additionally, he co-founded Calipsa AI, a fundraising automation tool for startups. Mr. Akhmedov began his entrepreneurial journey at the age of 18 by selling on Amazon, and later

co-built Froot.kz, an e-commerce and e-grocery ecosystem with over one million users, scaled across Kazakhstan and Türkiye. He is also a Co-Founder of RemissionSoft, which develops an AI-based support app for addiction recovery. Beyond his ventures, he mentors startups and actively contributes to regional forums. In May 2024, he participated in Alatau City, where he met with President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan to discuss digital infrastructure and innovation. Mr. Akhmedov holds a B.A. in Economics & Law from the University of International Business in Kazakhstan (2019) and has also studied at the University of Finance & Administration in the Czech Republic, University of the People in the U.S., and Harvard Business School Online.



Mr. Chingiz Batyrbekov, 37, is a cultural entrepreneur, festival director, and innovator in the Kyrgyz Republic's creative sector. He is the co-founder and CEO of KOLFEST, a pioneering music and arts festival held at Issyk-Kul, as well as the KOLFEST Public Fund, which is dedicated to developing Central Asia as an emerging hub for cultural tourism and creative industries. Under his leadership, KOLFEST has evolved from a festival into a movement that celebrates the fusion of ancient traditions and modern sounds, engages international artists, and fosters cross-cultural collaboration. Mr. Batyrbekov is passionate about building sustainable cultural projects that showcase Central Asia's unique identity and creative potential.

He is also active in event production, music curation, and global arts networking, representing the Kyrgyz Republic on international cultural platforms. In addition, he serves as an instructor in the International and Human Rights Law Department at the American University of Central Asia (AUCA). Mr. Batyrbekov holds an M.A. in Understanding and Securing Human Rights from the School of Advanced Studies, University of London (2013), a B.A. in Jurisprudence from the Osh State Institute of Law, Kyrgyz Republic (2012), and a B.A. in International and Comparative Politics from AUCA (2010).



Mr. Gantushig (Tushig) Gankhuyag, 38, is the CEO and Co-Founder of Teach for Mongolia, a nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing educational inequity in rural communities by cultivating the next generation of local leaders. Since its founding in 2022, the organization has become one of Mongolia's largest NGOs, mobilizing young professionals to teach in underserved schools while also expanding into policy advocacy, research, and teacher training. Before founding Teach for Mongolia, Mr. Gankhuyag spent over a decade working across the public and private sectors, specializing in strategy formulation and development finance consulting for clients including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and various UN agencies. Earlier in his career, he served at the Development Bank of Mongolia, where he helped raise over \$1.5 billion in financing for critical infrastructure projects.

More recently, he worked with the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, supporting the strengthening of government delivery mechanisms and Mongolia's international engagement efforts. A Fulbright Scholar, Mr. Gankhuyag holds an MPA from Cornell University (2019) and a B.Sc. in Finance from Indiana University South Bend (2010).



Ms. Sopfiya Yuvshanova, 39, is the Regional Evaluation Specialist at UNICEF's Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (ECARO) in Almaty. She brings nearly two decades of international development experience with expertise in data management and evaluation, evidence-based policy, and systems strengthening across Central Asia, the Caucasus, Europe, Middle East and North Africa. Her professional focus includes multi-country evaluations, innovative data sources and foresight, and national evaluation capacity development. She has a strong track record of building partnerships with academia and international financial institutions to advance accountability and sustainable development. From 2020-2024, Ms.

Yuvshanova served as Child Rights Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist at UNICEF Turkmenistan, where she led national evaluations, advanced child rights monitoring, and introduced innovative approaches such as youth-led evaluation through the Young SDG Ambassadors initiative. Previously, she worked with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Turkmenistan, where she pioneered the integration of futures thinking into planning processes, promoted citizen-generated data in data-scarce environments, introduced the concept of impact investment to strengthen SDG financing, and developed monitoring systems and data warehouses from the ground up. Ms. Yuvshanova holds an MA in Sociology from Utah State University (2016) and a Specialist Diploma with honors in International Economy from Moscow State University of Economics, Statistics and Informatics (2008). She is also a John Smith Trust Fellow (UK, 2018) and an alumna of Brown University's BIARI program (2013).



Ms. Diana Bayzakova, 40, is the Director of the Tashkent International Arbitration Centre (TIAC), an institution providing cutting-edge dispute resolution and arbitration services across the CIS countries and Asia within a unique conflict-free framework. A multilingual dispute resolution expert, she has served as a sole arbitrator, tribunal chair, and party-nominated arbitrator, and has acted as counsel in international arbitral proceedings under DIAC, DIFC-LCIA, ICC, SCC, ADCCAC, and other arbitration rules. In 2020, she was appointed to the Panel of Arbitrators of the World Bank's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes. She is also the founder of the TIAC Tech Moot, a pioneering competition that brings together students, practitioners, and academics at the intersection of technology and

arbitration. Ms. Bayzakova brings extensive experience and strategic insights to her field. Under her leadership, TIAC was nominated for the London-based Global Arbitration Review's "Best Innovation Award" for its groundbreaking TIAC-HKCIAC Cross-Institutional Rules of Arbitration. She holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Strategy and Innovation from Saïd Business School, University of Oxford (2025), an LL.M. in Petroleum Law and Policy from the University of Dundee (2009), a Diploma in Alternative Dispute Resolution from Humboldt Universität School of Law in Berlin (2006), and a B.A. in Law with first-class honors from the University of Westminster (WIUT) in London (2006). She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. at Tashkent State Institute of Law.