

CAMCA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**Fall 2026 Fellows****Mr. Mustafa Aryan****Afghanistan**

Mr. Mustafa Aryan, 36, is President of the Toronto Branch of the Canadian International Council, where he organizes high-level dialogues on foreign policy, security, innovation, and global governance. From 2024 to 2026, Mr. Aryan also served at Metrolinx, an agency of the Government of Ontario, managing stakeholder relations and third-party coordination. He previously served as Manager of Corporate Affairs at Elections Ontario, where he oversaw strategic partnerships, operational policy, electoral frameworks, and privacy portfolios. From 2022 to 2024, Mr. Aryan served as Program Manager and Research Fellow at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto. Prior to the fall of the Afghan government to the Taliban in 2021, Mr. Aryan held senior positions within the Afghan government, most recently serving as Director of Geopolitics and International Affairs at Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation. In that role, he contributed to intra-Afghan peace negotiations and regional engagement. Mr. Aryan has extensive expertise in counterterrorism, geopolitical risk, and international security, with a particular focus on Central and South Asia. He is committed to advancing regional cooperation through dialogue, diplomacy, and collaborative initiatives that bring together diverse stakeholders and partners. He holds an M.A. in International Security Studies from the University of Reading (2018), an M.A. in International Relations from the University of Afghanistan (2017), and a B.A. from Kabul University (2013). He has completed executive education at Harvard University, the U.S. National Defense University, The Hague Academy, and the United Nations. He is also a Salzburg Global Fellow, an Open Society Foundations Fellow, and a 2024 Fuller Fellow at The Asia Foundation.

Ms. Ani Avetisyan**Armenia**

Ms. Ani Avetisyan, 27, is an Armenian journalist, researcher, and open-source intelligence (OSINT) specialist with extensive experience researching the information environment across the South Caucasus and Central Asia. She currently serves as the Caucasus Correspondent for Bloomberg, covering political and economic developments across Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, including regional security, markets, and international affairs. She also works as a consultant and media analyst with a number of local and international organizations, where she researches media environments, foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI), and influence campaigns across the Caucasus and Central Asia. Previously, Ms. Avetisyan consulted for Global Media Registry, researching media ownership, foreign information manipulation, election integrity, and online influence operations. In this capacity, she

worked with international organizations and major technology platforms to support trust and safety efforts while producing research on the evolving information landscape across Europe and Eurasia. Ms. Avetisyan has also collaborated with Bne IntelliNews, Eurasianet, and Open Caucasus Media. She has worked extensively with civil society organizations on initiatives promoting media freedom, transparency, and democratic resilience, and has trained journalists and civil society groups in media literacy, verification, and OSINT methodologies. Ms. Avetisyan holds an M.A. in Conflict, Security and Development from King's College London (2024) and a B.A. in Journalism from Yerevan State University (2021).

Mr. Hovhannes Harutyunyan

Armenia



Mr. Hovhannes Harutyunyan, 36, is a democracy and governance professional specializing in parliamentary development, political leadership, and strategic communications. He currently serves as Program Director at the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Armenia, where he leads programs with parliament, political parties, and civil society. His work focuses on strengthening parliamentary institutions, political parties, public engagement, and citizen-responsive governance. Since 2018, Mr. Harutyunyan has led the design and delivery of live-broadcast candidate debates and voter information initiatives, creating opportunities for citizens to hear directly from candidates. He has also supported young, women, and emerging political leaders in developing the skills and experience needed to participate in public life. His current work examines public attitudes toward political change, peace, security, and Armenia's future, as well as the evolving information environment and its implications for political communication. Earlier, he served as an expert to the Standing Committee on Defense and Security of the National Assembly of Armenia, working on defense legislation, security policy, parliamentary oversight, and institutional reform. His regional interests include trade, investment, connectivity, and economic cooperation linking the South Caucasus, Central Asia, and Europe. Mr. Harutyunyan holds an M.A. in National Security Studies from Yerevan State University (2015) and completed a program at The Fletcher School at Tufts University (2019). He also served as a fellow with the Hawaii State Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. Rusif Huseynov

Azerbaijan

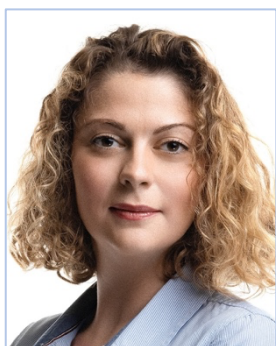


Mr. Rusif Huseynov, 39, is the Founding Director of Topchubashov Center, a Baku-based think tank where he oversees institutional strategy, research initiatives, editorial work, and fundraising. Under his leadership, the Center has established itself as a prominent research institution in the region. His research focuses on socio-political developments, protracted conflicts, and ethnic minorities across the post-Soviet space, with particular expertise in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and the Middle East. He is also Editor-in-Chief of the analytical journal *Politicon* and a non-resident consultant for the Geneva-based Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue. As one of the original members of the *Peace Bridge Initiative*, he promotes Track-II dialogue and societal reconciliation between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Mr. Huseynov's previous research affiliations include the ReThink.CEE program at the German Marshall Fund of the United States, EU4Dialogue, and Think Visegrad at the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs. He previously served as Advisor to the Rector of Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University, where

he led international programs and innovation initiatives, founded the university's Startup & Innovation Hub, and secured funding for its development. He regularly contributes analysis to *The National Interest*, *Jamestown Foundation*, *POLITICO*, and *The Financial Times*. Mr. Huseynov holds an M.A. in International Relations and Regional Studies from the University of Tartu (2019), an MBA from Azerbaijan State University of Economics (2014), and a B.A. in International Relations from Baku State University (2008).

Ms. Mariam Koyava

Georgia



Ms. Mariam Koyava, 36, is the Founder and Managing Partner of SavvY, a business consulting and investment advisory firm supporting businesses, investors, and public institutions across emerging markets in the Caucasus and Central Asia. With more than 15 years of experience in management consulting, banking, audit, and private sector development, she specializes in foreign direct investment (FDI) attraction strategies, investment readiness, access to finance, and initiatives that strengthen entrepreneurship and private sector competitiveness. Ms. Koyava advises governments, investment promotion agencies, financial institutions, and private sector organizations on investment strategies, investor services, institutional development, and business growth. Her work includes leading the development of

Uzbekistan's first targeted FDI attraction strategy and advising Enterprise Georgia on investor aftercare frameworks. A strong advocate for entrepreneurship and economic development, she has trained more than 7,500 entrepreneurs, executives, and public-sector professionals in finance, strategy, business model innovation, and investment promotion. Before founding SavvY, she held positions at TBC Bank and KPMG Georgia. Ms. Koyava holds a BBA in Finance from Caucasus Business School (2012), is a member of ACCA, and has completed executive education programs at Harvard Business School.

Ms. Laura Vaigorova

Kazakhstan



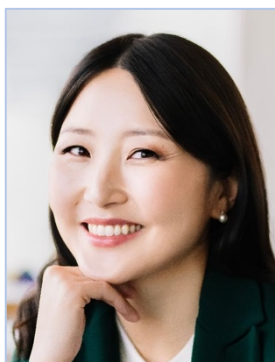
Ms. Laura Vaigorova, 30, is an EdTech entrepreneur, policy advisor, and advocate for inclusive education and women's empowerment. She is the Co-Founder and CEO of Smartestprep Ltd., an AI-powered university admissions and career guidance platform that serves more than 35,000 active learners across Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. Under her leadership, the company has raised more than \$400,000 in venture capital and \$100,000 in grants, secured a U.S. Department of State contract, established partnerships with schools and universities across the region, and grown to a team of more than 100 staff. Beyond her work in EdTech, Ms. Vaigorova founded Stopharass.kz, an anonymous harassment reporting and survivor support platform. She also contributes to national policy discussions as an

advisor to Kazakhstan's National Commission for Women's Affairs and Family Policy and the National AI Council, where she advises on gender-inclusive education and AI policy. In addition, she is a Trustee of IQanat, a nonprofit focused on expanding educational opportunities for rural youth. Ms. Vaigorova is also a monthly education columnist for *Forbes Women* and a frequent speaker at regional and international forums, including GESS Dubai, ASU GSV Summit, Digital Bridge, and Baku ID. She holds a Master of Public Policy from Nazarbayev University and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore (2020), as well as a B.A. in World Languages, Literature and Linguistics from Nazarbayev University (2018). She has also completed entrepreneurship programs at Stanford StartX and Draper University.



Mr. Chubak Temirov, 35, is Deputy Director of the High Technology Park (HTP) of the Kyrgyz Republic and a technology ecosystem builder. HTP is Kyrgyzstan's flagship institution for technology exports, innovation, and digital transformation, supporting more than 500 resident technology companies and serving as a key driver of the country's growing digital economy. With more than a decade of experience in the technology sector, Mr. Temirov plays a leading role in advancing Kyrgyzstan's innovation agenda. Working at the intersection of government, industry, academia, and international development, he helps shape programs and partnerships focused on technology entrepreneurship, startup growth, digital talent development, foreign investment, and innovation-driven economic transformation. He is also actively

involved in initiatives related to artificial intelligence, local-language AI technologies, and national AI capabilities. Mr. Temirov is one of the principal organizers of the KIT Forum, Kyrgyzstan's largest technology and innovation forum, which brings together more than 3,000 participants from over 20 countries. He also regularly represents Kyrgyzstan at international technology and innovation events and serves as a speaker, moderator, mentor, and jury member. He is Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the INAI Kyrgyz-German Institute of Applied Informatics and contributes to technology education and workforce development in Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Temirov holds an MSc in Operations and Logistics Management from the University of East Anglia, UK (2018), and a B.A. in Business Administration from the American University of Central Asia (2013).



Ms. Tana Jambaldorj, 37, is a strategy and policy advisor specializing in long-term development policy and intersectoral coordination. Most recently, she served as Secretary and Executive Director of the National Committee for Vision 2050, chaired by the Prime Minister of Mongolia. In this role, she worked with ministries and government agencies to support implementation of Mongolia's long-term development policy and oversaw the publication of the first five-year implementation assessment, including recommendations to strengthen monitoring and evaluation of national development programs. She also served as a government-appointed Board Director of Oyu Tolgoi LLC, a major copper mining company, and contributed to the working group that developed Mongolia's 2024 Sovereign Wealth

Fund Law. Prior to her public-sector service, Ms. Jambaldorj gained extensive international private-sector experience, including as an Engagement Manager focused on mining and metals at McKinsey & Company, and in operational strategy at Rio Tinto. She is also the Founder and Head of the Advisory Board of the Mongolian Young Scholars Program, a nonprofit program she established in 2011 that has supported more than 450 academically motivated students in pursuing higher education. She holds an MBA from the Saïd Business School at the University of Oxford, UK (2020), a Graduate Certificate of Mineral Resources from University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia (2013), and a B.A. in Economics from Harvard University (2011).



Ms. Muna Shukurova, 29, is a fintech executive and digital finance leader serving as Managing Director of Alif Uzbekistan, part of one of Central Asia's leading fintech groups. In this role, she oversees strategic and cross-functional operations, fundraising and investor relations, and the development of digital financial products, including AI-enabled credit and risk solutions. Her career spans Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, with experience across banking, fintech, and emerging-market financial services. Before becoming Managing Director, she served as Head of Operations at Alif Uzbekistan and earlier as Marketing Manager at Alif Bank in Tajikistan. Beyond the private sector, Ms. Shukurova served on the Steering Committee of the IPPF European Network as Youth Representative for 36 countries, contributing to youth

policy and advocacy across Europe and Central Asia in collaboration with the Council of Europe. She has also been recognized among the Most Influential Women in Islamic Finance in the CIS region. Ms. Shukurova holds an M.A. in World Economy (2021) and a B.A. in Economics (2019) from the Russian-Tajik Slavonic University.



Mr. Abbas Djurabaev, 38, is a senior banking, capital markets, and corporate finance executive currently serving on the Supervisory Board of ApexBank. His career spans leadership roles in multinational banking, government policy, and the transformation of state-owned enterprises. He has held senior positions including Vice President and Head of Uzbekistan at Citibank; Advisor to the Chairman of the Board at Microcreditbank; Executive Member of the Supervisory Board of Aloqabank; Deputy Head of the Capital Market Development Department; and Deputy Director of the Banking Reform Department at the Ministry of Finance of Uzbekistan. Mr. Djurabaev has also played a key role in coordinating the transformation of the appointment process for Independent Supervisory Board

Members and supporting the subsequent privatization of the state-owned bank and international bond issuance, working closely with international financial institutions. In addition to his executive and board experience, he has lectured on fixed-income analysis and corporate governance at the Management Development Institute of Singapore in Tashkent and Westminster International University in Tashkent. Mr. Djurabaev holds a Graduate Certificate from the IFC-Milken Capital Markets Program at George Washington University (2023), an LLM in International Commercial Law from Westminster International University in Tashkent (2017), and a BSc in Financial Economics and Investment from London Metropolitan University (2012).