

PEDAGOGICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR DEVELOPING SCIENTIFIC THINKING IN STUDENTS THROUGH THE STUDY OF THE ACTIVITIES OF “UZBEK SCIENTISTS ABROAD”

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Abstract

This article presents information about Uzbeks who have received education abroad, worked in various scientific centers, universities, and research institutions around the world, and who are currently engaged in scientific activities. In addition, the contribution of Uzbeks living abroad to world science is highlighted through available historical data.

Key terms

abroad, science, university, commercial program, art, chemistry, USA, Europe, Eastern countries, award, project, joint program, recognition.

The role of each country in global development depends on the advancement of science and the support provided by the state. In particular, in recent years, as a result of reforms in Uzbekistan based on global principles and oriented toward foreign policy, our compatriots with high intellectual potential have gained opportunities to establish connections with foreign countries for exchanging experiences in leading scientific research centers around the world. This, in turn, plays an important role in introducing new innovative ideas into the country and expanding the flow of investments. During the years of independence, the establishment of branches of leading foreign universities in Uzbekistan and the implementation of joint programs with a number of foreign higher education institutions have created significant opportunities for Uzbek talents to gain international recognition. In the context of the New Uzbekistan, a new stage in interactions with Uzbeks living abroad began in 2017–2018. In 2017, the “Committee for Interethnic Relations and Friendship with Foreign Countries” was established under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the department for relations with Uzbek compatriots under this committee began its activities in a new historical context. From 2017 to 2023, the committee carried out exemplary work and accumulated substantial experience¹.

In particular, it is noteworthy that in his addresses to the people of Uzbekistan and the Oliy Majlis in 2019, 2020, and 2022, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev, emphasized the importance of strengthening ties with Uzbeks living abroad, utilizing their intellectual potential, drawing the attention of overseas Uzbeks to Uzbekistan, and providing moral support to Uzbeks living in diaspora.

To optimally address the tasks and challenges in this area and to establish the foundations of state policy, the adoption of the Decree No. PQ-1982 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on October 25, 2018, “On Measures to Further Improve the State Policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the Field of Cooperation with Compatriots Living Abroad” was a significant step. This decree, consisting of nine articles, outlined the key strategic objectives that Uzbeks abroad should pursue in the future².

We present the activities of Uzbek scholars who are supportive of current reforms, particularly our compatriots actively engaged in scientific work in Europe. Temur Rakhmatullaevich Yunusov was born on September 13, 1983, in Bukhara city, Bukhara region. He obtained his bachelor’s degree in Ecology from the Faculty of Biology at the National

¹ See: Reports of the Committee for Interethnic Relations and Friendship with Foreign Countries for the years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022; - pp. 15–16; - pp. 17–19; - pp. 21–28; - pp. 20–22.

² Xalq So’zi newspaper, October 27, 2018.

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University of Uzbekistan. He successfully defended his doctoral dissertation at the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, on the topic “Characterization of Cholinergic Interneurons in the Locomotor Neural Network of *Drosophila melanogaster* Larvae.” Currently, he serves as Laboratory Manager at the prestigious Sainsbury Laboratory at the University of Cambridge. His scientific interests focus on studying the interface between plants and symbiotic microorganisms, utilizing various subcellular markers and fluorescent microscopy. At Cambridge, he has been actively involved in establishing the Uzbek Society and organizing cultural (Navruz) and academic (Abu Ali ibn Sino Conference) events. He is also a member of the Central Asia Forum in Cambridge and has participated in the development of the High Technologies Center in Tashkent³.

When analyzing the contribution of Uzbeks in Europe to the development of global science, it is important to highlight those scholars who have been able to establish scientific schools. One such scholar is Nodir Sanaqulov, who conducts research in marketing in Finland. Originally from Samarkand, after completing secondary school, he began his higher education at the Faculty of Chemistry of Samarkand State University named after Sharof Rashidov. During his university years, the number of young students interested in studying abroad was increasing. While in his second year, Nodir Sanaqulov learned about a fully-funded scholarship opportunity for students to study in India. He submitted the required documents for this competition and successfully won the grant. In 2003, he began his studies at one of the colleges of the Delhi Institute. Subsequently, he chose South Korea for his graduate studies. A Korean friend encouraged him to pursue his education there. Between 2008 and 2010, he studied at the Faculty of Marketing at Kombie University in South Korea and continued his practical work in this field. He then continued his research in Finland and successfully defended his doctoral dissertation in a short period of time.

Another Uzbek scholar is Azamat Akbarov, a linguist who became a professor in Europe at the age of 38. Today, he is the author of a 200-page Uzbek language textbook, which serves as the only guide for Korean students learning Uzbek. A member of the “Great Future” expert group, Professor at Pusan University of Foreign Studies in South Korea, and Doctor of Applied Linguistics, Azamat Akbarov was born in 1977 in Samarkand. In 1999, he graduated with honors from the Faculty of English Philology at Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages and obtained a master’s degree in English language and literature from the same university in 2001. In 2003, he earned a second master’s degree in political science from Dalarna University in Sweden. In 2009, he defended his doctoral dissertation in English linguistics in South Korea. Between 2004 and 2006, he taught Uzbek language, history, and culture at the Faculty of Central Asian Studies at Pusan University of Foreign Studies. Throughout his career, he has supervised 14 doctoral dissertations and 40 master’s theses. From 2009 to 2016, he served at the International Burch University in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, as the Head of the Department of English Language and Literature, Dean of the Faculty of Pedagogy, and from 2012 to 2016 as the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs and International Relations. From 2016 to 2018, he worked as a professor at the Department of General Linguistics and European Languages at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. Since September 2018, he has been a professor at the Faculty of Oriental Studies at Pusan University of Foreign Studies in South Korea⁴.

Another internationally recognized Uzbek scholar is Aziza Shanazarova, the first Uzbek professor at Columbia University in the United States. She is the first among Uzbeks to be appointed as a tenured leading professor at Columbia University. Aziza Shanazarova is also one

³ <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2023/01/21/temur-yunusov/>

⁴ **UzBridge** electronic journal, Issue I, May 2019.

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of our compatriots who was awarded the “Friendship” Order by the decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev⁵.

Her devoted life to science serves as an inspiration for every young talent. Aziza Shanazarova graduated in 2007 from the Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies with a specialization in Eastern Philosophy. In 2011, she graduated with honors from Indiana University, Bloomington, USA, and in 2019 successfully defended her doctoral dissertation. Her doctoral research focused on “Sufism, the history of gender, and the role of women in Central Asian history,” a topic on which she has been conducting research for several years.

In addition to her scientific work, Aziza Shanazarova has been teaching international students. She began her pedagogical career at Indiana University and later continued as an instructor at Stanford University. Notably, she has also served as a research fellow at the Centre for Islamic Studies at the University of Oxford, one of the oldest universities in the world.

Uzbeks abroad are also conducting effective and successful scientific work in Eastern countries. Within the framework of Uzbekistan’s open and constructive foreign policy, launched in 2016, relations with Arab countries have fundamentally changed. Uzbekistan’s foreign policy in the Arab world has prioritized establishing regional stability and security. Humanitarian relations between Uzbekistan and Saudi Arabia cover a wide range of areas, including culture, education, science, sports, and religion. The scientific achievements of Uzbeks in other foreign countries are also commendable. In particular, Uzbeks demonstrate their high scientific potential in Central Asian countries, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Southeast Asian countries, and beyond.

Above, we have provided information on the participation of a few exemplary compatriots in the development of world science abroad. It is noteworthy that in the years following Uzbekistan’s independence, hundreds of Uzbeks have pursued modern education abroad and demonstrated their high potential in the field of science.

In the era of globalization, the international scientific achievements of Uzbek scholars are being recognized by the global community. The research, innovative ideas, and scientific discoveries of Uzbek specialists working abroad are not only a source of national pride but also an important educational and pedagogical resource for guiding students toward science. Studying their activities plays a vital role in developing students’ qualities such as scientific thinking, research interest, creativity, intellectual motivation, and a global outlook.

Developing scientific thinking is one of the key tasks of pedagogy. The ways to integrate the activities of Uzbek scientists abroad into the educational process can be outlined as follows:

- Developing project works on the topic “The Contribution of Uzbek Scientists to Science”;
- Organizing online communication with Uzbek scientists working abroad (via Zoom platform);
- Conducting events such as “Uzbek Scientists – Heroes of Science” and scientific evenings;
- Presenting the scientific achievements of Uzbek scientists abroad as examples for students.

Many Uzbek scientists are recognized internationally. Studying their activities with students serves as a model of logical and scientific thinking. Knowing the global achievements of scientists strengthens young people’s loyalty to their nation. Their scientific work serves as a powerful motivational resource for education. From a pedagogical perspective, this process contributes to the intellectual development of students, enhances their scientific potential, and supports informed decision-making in their future career choices.

⁵ <https://daryo.uz/.2020/03/07>