



***The Global Economic Education Alliance***

**in cooperation with**

*Center for Education and Development in Tbilisi*

& the

***Center for Economic Education***

University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS)



**REQUEST for APPLICATION**

**to Participate in an  
*Economic Education Study Tour*  
to the Republic of Georgia**

**May 30 – June 12, 2025**

Batumi, Georgia



***Application Deadline: December 31, 2024***

## ***Economic Education Study Tour the Republic of Georgia***

### **I. Overview.**

- The *Global Economic Education Alliance* is offering a 13-day Study Tour to the Republic of Georgia for K-12 schoolteachers and economic educators from throughout the United States. The Study Tour will be led by Professor John Brock, Director of the *Center for Economic Education* at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS). Our in-country host, Nino Talakhadze, is Director of the *Center for Education and Development* in Tbilisi. John and Nino worked together on a previous Study Tour to the U.S.
- This tour will provide a unique educational opportunity for teachers to exchange ideas, teaching methodology and experiences in economic education with educators from Georgia as well as colleagues from other states within the U.S.
- This Study Tour to Georgia is a highly effective way of learning about an economy and experiencing firsthand, not only the educational system, but also the reality of everyday life. Teachers who have participated in such international exchange often remark that it was “an experience of a lifetime.” The objective is that teachers return to their classrooms with renewed appreciation of the importance of economics and enthusiasm for economics education. Students will ultimately gain from their teacher’s life-changing experience.
- For additional thoughts about the value of GEEA Study Tours, you are encouraged to read the Post-Study Tour teacher reflections on the GEEA website, [www.globaleconed.org](http://www.globaleconed.org).

**II. Structure.** The Study Tour is divided into three distinct phases – preparation, trip to Georgia, and post-tour follow-up.

**A. Preparation.**

A preparatory program will be held for several months prior to departure. Once the tour group is selected, Professor Brock will conduct preparatory planning via electronic communication. We will discuss Study Tour logistics as well as Georgia country history, culture, politics, economics and education challenges.

**B. Trip to the Republic of Georgia.**

- ❖ Dates: Participants depart from their home airport on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> & return home on Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> or Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup> depending on return flight itinerary.
- ❖ We will participate in some or all the following activities (among others):
  - Visit schools and classes at both the secondary and university level. These visits will include meetings with teachers, students, and education officials. Participants will observe how Georgian educators conduct classes and manage the school.
  - Visit Georgia’s central bank, the National Bank of Georgia, to learn more about the economic situation in the country.
  - Visit cultural and historic sites in Georgia, to include a tour of Mtskheta, the old capital city, and Kakheti, the important wine producing region of the country.
  - Enjoy a Georgian supper at Nino’s home.
  - Participate in two separate one-day teacher economics workshops in Tbilisi and Batumi.
    - U.S. teacher participants may conduct a lesson for the Georgian teachers.
  - Visit Ilia State University, a leading university in Georgia and receive a presentation about the political situation in the country.
  - Visit Batumi State University and receive a presentation about Russia-Georgia relations.
  - Enjoy Batumi known as “the Pearl of the Black Sea.”

**C. Follow-up.**

- ❖ Upon returning to your respective schools, each participant will be expected to:
  - Incorporate experiences from this program into teaching at your school. Share the experience with colleagues in your school, your school district, and/or your community (e.g., Power Point presentation with photos, video, etc.)
  - Optional, but encouraged: Based on your Council or Center workshop opportunities, attend a teacher workshop conducted by your local *Center for Economic Education* or state *Council for Economic Education* in the coming year to deliver a presentation about your experiences and observations in Georgia.
  - Optional: Consider participating in an online exchange with a schoolteacher (and students) from Georgia. While the time difference creates a significant challenge, some may figure out a way to communicate.
  - Submit a 1,000 word (about 3 – 4 pages with 12-point font, double space) **Post-Tour Report/Reflection** to your supporting Center/Council and to Professor Brock that summarizes the personal benefits gained from the experience, the benefits to your students, and your ideas for follow-on activities with your school, school district and/or your state Council or local *Center for Economic Education*. Consider this your reflection on the value of the Study Tour.
  - Due date:
    - August 1, 2025
    - A GEEA Study Tour travel subsidy (between \$200 - \$400) will be provided to participants upon submission of the Post-Tour Reflection Report.

### III. Important Requirements and Miscellaneous Details.

- ❖ Applicants must currently be K-12 teachers in the United States or involved in Economic Education administration (e.g., Center or Council personnel).
- ❖ Applicants ***must*** have valid passports when submitting the application. A copy of the photo page of your passport must be included with your online application. Your passport should not expire for at least 6 months after the completion of our Study Tour.
  - ***Please note:*** Participation in a study tour can be physically taxing. Countries are not always as handicap friendly as the U.S., and the tour involves a lot of walking.
  - You may be required to carry your own luggage. You may not have baggage handlers to help you, so try very hard to **minimize luggage/weight**; large suitcases become difficult to handle, as you may have to carry up and down stairs. Ramps & elevators are sometimes not available.
  - Accommodations (**double-occupancy**) are not deluxe, but very comfortable. Be prepared to depart the hotel in the morning (sometimes early) and not have an opportunity to rest until late afternoon or early evening.
- ❖ The plan is to depart from your home airport for Tbilisi on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> (or on Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>), preferably arriving in Tbilisi on May 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - **In coordination with John Brock** ([jbrock@uccs.edu](mailto:jbrock@uccs.edu)), each participant will purchase his/her own airline ticket to Tbilisi (TBS). Pre-arranged taxis or a ride share (*Bolt*) will take participants to our hotel in Tbilisi.
  - Return to U.S.: Participants should schedule the return flight to the U.S. from Batumi Airport (BUS) on Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. Given the time change, you may arrive home on the same day (or on June 12<sup>th</sup> for some itineraries).
- ❖ Internet access should be available at all hotels as well as most public buildings. International calling should always work.
- ❖ It may not be easy to accommodate special dietary requirements, but our hosts will do their best to ensure diet needs are met. Be sure to let us know of any special needs.
- ❖ Each participant should purchase his/her own travel medical insurance through one of the many providers of these policies. Past Study Tour participants have been pleased with *TravelGuard*, *RoamRight*, or *Seven Corners* for their travel medical insurance needs.
- ❖ Breakfasts are provided complimentary during each hotel stay. Most lunches and some group dinners are provided with the Study Tour. Participants will be responsible for alcoholic beverages, some meals, and snacks.
- ❖ **Expense Summary:**
  - Airfare: your roundtrip airfare will cost<sup>1</sup> approximately: \$2,000.00
  - In-country costs<sup>2</sup> 2,300.00
  - Less: GEEA subsidy – 300.00
  - Net estimated total Study Tour cost paid by each participant \$4,000.00

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<sup>1</sup> Current roundtrip airfares are estimated to be in the \$1,800 - \$2,200 range, depending on city of U.S. departure, airline and chosen itinerary.

<sup>2</sup> Includes hotel (double occupancy), many restaurant meals including tips, local transport, train to Batumi, museum & other activity entrance fees and tour guides. Only minor personal and incidental expenditures, some meals, and tour guide tips are borne by participants. Each participant will be responsible to send a check for \$2,300 for in-country expenses payable to the *Global Economic Education Alliance* no later than February 24, 2024 (see Timeline details at the end of this document).

- ❖ The *Global Economic Education Alliance* will be the fiscal agent. Each participant is responsible for sending a check for \$2,300 payable to GEEA to arrive no later than February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025.
- ❖ Cancellation Policy: After March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, refunds on payments made to GEEA to cover in-country expenses will be provided if GEEA is able to cancel in-country financial commitments. Only the nonrefundable expenses incurred by GEEA will be charged to a participant who must cancel.
- ❖ Applicants will receive notification of acceptance no later than January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- ❖ If you have any questions, feel free to contact John Brock at [jbrock@uccs.edu](mailto:jbrock@uccs.edu).

### **APPLICATION PROCEDURE<sup>3</sup>**

**Teacher Study Tour to the Republic of Georgia, May 30 – June 12, 2025**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION IS: December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

- ❖ Email your **application** directly to John Brock at [jbrock@uccs.edu](mailto:jbrock@uccs.edu).
- ❖ **Descriptive Essay:**
  - ✓ A double-spaced typewritten descriptive essay addressing the following questions (please limit to 750 – 1000 words – about 2 to 4 pages):
    - Top of the first page:
      - Name: \_\_\_\_\_
      - School: \_\_\_\_\_
      - Grade Level(s): \_\_\_\_\_
      - Courses Teaching: \_\_\_\_\_
      - Degrees and Universities:
        - Bachelor’s degree in \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_.
        - Advanced degree(s) in \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_.
    - In your essay, briefly address the following:
      1. Why are you interested in participating in this teacher *Study Tour to Georgia*?
      2. Identify two primary goals you have for this Georgian experience.
      3. Describe one of your cross-cultural experiences or your international travel experiences. (Note: Previous international travel experience is **NOT** required to participate in this Study Tour.)
      4. How do you plan to share your expanded knowledge and experiences from this Study Tour with your students, community, and colleagues?
- ❖ **Copy of the photo page of your passport**, which shows expiration date (and provides needed information for in-country airline reservations). If you have applied for a passport or passport renewal, please provide related information.
- ❖ **Letter of Support:**
  - ✓ From your state *Council for Economic Education*, your local *Center for Economic Education*, or another economic education organization with which you have interacted (e.g., *Foundation for Teaching Economics*, *Junior Achievement*), or from your school principal/administrator/department chair.

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<sup>3</sup> The *Global Economic Education Alliance*, the University of Colorado, and all organizations involved in the Study Tour selection process shall provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

## **Background Information**

### **Teacher Study Tour to the Republic of Georgia**

#### **Why the Republic of Georgia?**

Visiting the Republic of Georgia offers a blend of rich history, stunning landscapes, and vibrant culture. Nestled at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Georgia is renowned for its breathtaking mountain ranges, charming villages, and the picturesque vineyards of the Kakheti region. Its capital, Tbilisi, boasts a unique mix of ancient architecture and modern flair, where we will visit the university and schools, participate in a teacher workshop with Georgian economics teachers, hear about the Georgian economy at the national bank, as well as enjoy the rich culture and history of the city. We will take a scenic train ride to Batumi on the Black Sea. Georgia's diverse cultural heritage, including ancient churches and UNESCO World Heritage sites, provides deep insights into its fascinating past.

#### **Program Overview**

The study tour will include all or many of the following:

- Visits to K-12 schools.
- Visit to the National Bank with a talk from a bank economist.
- Social event and/or education sessions with students.
- Participate in/conduct a lesson for economics workshop with Georgian teachers.
- Meetings with school faculty.
- Visit Georgian Universities in Tbilisi and Batumi.
- Cultural and history component to include tours of the historical city centers in Tbilisi.
- Supper at Georgian educator's home.

As part of the study tour routine, structured group reflection and journaling or field notes will be utilized to share perspectives and to stimulate deeper learning. Participants will be asked to reflect daily on their experience as well as share their insights from the activities.

#### **Benefits of Program**

- Dinner and social gatherings will provide ample opportunity for participating teachers and our hosts to explore mutual areas of interest and to exchange insights on the economic, political, and education challenges in Georgia.
- Participating teachers will be better able to develop their students' understanding of our world. The program will provide teachers with first-hand knowledge of Georgia and its economy. Classroom educators will be able to compare issues in both the U.S. and Georgia. Some participants may choose to incorporate their enhanced knowledge into an expanded unit or topic in a course they teach.
- Participating teachers will also be able to bring their enriched international perspective to their community and professional conferences. All are encouraged to share their experiences via a PowerPoint or video presentation at a seminar or workshop conducted by their state *Council for Economic Education* or local *Center for Economic Education*.

#### **Study Tour Coordinators:**

**Nino Talakhadze** is Director of the *Center for Education and Development* in Tbilisi. She has participated in a Study Tour to the United States in 2011 and is a graduate of the *Council for Economic Education* Training of Trainers program. She has coordinated U.S. teacher Study Tours to Georgia and conducted multiple teacher workshops in her country.

**John Brock** is the Director, *Center for Economic Education*, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs and is President of the Board of Directors of the *Global Economic Education Alliance*. He has led fourteen study tours – two to South Africa, seven to Peru, and five to the post-Soviet region (Ukraine, Lithuania, Russia, and Estonia/Latvia/Lithuania). He taught a week-long class at Batumi State University in 2012.

## **Timeline:**

### **Pre-Decision Phase:**

**As soon as possible, but no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024:**

- Email your application to John Brock at [jbrock@uccs.edu](mailto:jbrock@uccs.edu).

**January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** Notified of selection; early applicants may receive early notification.

### **Post-Selection/Preparation Phase:**

**January 31 – April 30:** Airline tickets purchased by participants; before finalizing purchase get approval from John Brock. Provide John with final itinerary.

**February 23:** Check for \$2,300 made payable to the *Global Economic Education Alliance* received by John Brock. Mail to: John Brock, 1334 Culebra Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

**January 31 – May 28:** Preparation for the Tour via electronic communication, readings, and Zoom meetings.

### **Study Tour/Trip Phase (likely trip agenda):**

**May 28/29:** Depart for Tbilisi, Georgia (airport code: TBS).

**May 30:** Arrive Tbilisi Airport (TBS). Pre-arranged taxi (or John meet you at TBS to arrange *Bolt*) to the hotel in Tbilisi.

**Jun 1 – 5:** Tbilisi portion of tour to likely include: School visits, museum & city tours, National Bank visit, economics workshop with Georgian teachers, etc.

**Jun 6:** Train to Batumi. Settle into hotel.

**Jun 7 - 10:** Batumi portion of tour. School and Batumi State University visit, teacher workshop, enjoy Black Sea walkway and Batumi nightlife.

**Jun 11:** Return flights to the U.S.

### **Study Tour Follow-up Phase:**

**Following Study Tour:** Implement plan to share experiences with students, colleagues, Council/Center, etc.

**August 1, 2025:** Deadline to submit Post-Tour Report to Professor Brock and to your supporting Council/Center/recommender. GEEA \$200 - 400 subsidy check to follow.