

Ilyas Ciloglu: Study at IBSU and receive the same education as in USA and Europe

In 1995, when it was decided to found International Black Sea University in Georgia, few believed it would work. It seemed to be a light at the end of a dark tunnel, where students dared to dream about a better future but never get to the end of the tunnel. Now, when you stand at the gates of IBSU, surrounded by green space, you realize that everything is up to you.

IBSU has become a winner of Georgian Times and GORBI business awards for its high standards of education and special popularity among students once again. Here Rector of International Black Sea University, Prof. Dr., Ilyas Chiloglu, clarifies why IBSU is the best place to get high level of education.

IBSU is a university with high quality of education. We have a long experience of teaching in English language (since 1995). University has a strong element of internationalization – a big number of staff and student exchange programs, international staff involvement, international students' environment, international publications and scientific events, international expert participation in academic program development process and a big number collaboration with international universities and organizations. A big variety of extracurricular activities are oriented on developing transferrable and soft skills, such as participating in international level Olympiads and competitions in IT, law, business, education and humanities and social sciences. IBSU has a high rate of field employment nationwide, as well as internationally, our graduates pursue studying in worldwide recognized universities. In terms of lifelong learning university has a wide range of certificate programs, local and international summer and winter schools. University considers social corporate responsibility as one of its main priorities – conducts special programs for society: Street Law program, English Language learning program, free legal consultations, Basics of Business, etc. IBSU offers eco-friendly, safe and healthy environment, with special attention to sports and cultural activities. Variety of scholarships for local, international and socially vulnerable students and stipends for students with high academic achievements. For us every student matter and



I myself very often tell this story to my staff and students: "Once a man saw millions of starfish washed ashore. He started picking them up one by one and throwing them back into the sea. A man passing by asked ironically: "Can you save millions of starfish by returning them back one by one?" – "Better ask this starfish if it is worth saving," he replied, and threw one more into the sea. Each of our students is significantly important for us with their achievements and problems.

"Friendship does not mean handling all the workload yourself. Professors and teachers demand the maximum from students when it comes to learning. Probably this is why IBSU graduates' education quality and employment rate are high.

"Our students are competitive around the globe. They are allowed to take part in exchange programmes and study at leading universities in Europe, Asia and the USA. They may then continue their studies abroad. We have partnerships with more than 60 international universities, invite professors and teachers from abroad and send our lecturers for training overseas.

"When I say that I want IBSU to be the equal of universities in Europe, I am told that IBSU stands above many European universities, which is particularly pleasant for us. The level of our BA degrees / education rightly equals that of European ones. There are some challenges at second- and third-degree level in Georgia, specifically at PhD level, which requires completely different types of study. But I believe we have high potential to achieve success in this direction.

"Most importantly, we support students to engage in research to write and publish in our academic

journals along with academic personnel. The university endeavors to meet the individual requirements of students and create a comfortable environment for them. In parallel to educational activities, students are involved in a wide variety of clubs where they may pursue their interests. They can participate in social, cultural and sport activities.

"We also have a business-innovation hub, which enables students to get involved in business during their studies, and a career planning service which links students to potential employers. It is noteworthy that 90% of our graduates are employed. We also have employed students who study here during the evenings.

"International Black Sea University is deemed to have all resources to become the leading educational centre in the region. Georgia has a good geographical location, safe environment and highly qualified professors and teachers, and also affordable quality education and low living expenses.

"If we compare the educational fees of Europe and Georgia, we have a quite advantageous position. The quality of our education, I mean at bachelor's level, is not below the quality available in Europe and the USA, as has been proved and recognized many times. Georgia has approximately 20,000 vacant higher education places. 20,000 extra foreign students would bring an additional 200 million US Dollar profit to the country.

"At present, Georgia is failing to present these opportunities in the best way. We need to work on this to attract foreign students to Georgia. We guarantee that they will receive the same quality of education here as in Europe and the USA.

Author: Nino Tabatadze

