

Information on the establishment of the " UzReport Journalism, Media, and Communications Academy" at Nordic International University

Amidst the current period of advancement in Uzbekistan, there is an urgent need to educate skilled journalists who possess outstanding professional and creative abilities. These journalists will play a crucial role in advancing the fields of education and research, as well as comprehensively reporting on and analyzing the swiftly evolving sectors inside our country and worldwide. The head of our state has prioritized the creation of a transparent society by significantly enhancing the training of highly educated and highly skilled personnel in the media sector. This includes promoting and advancing the information sector, as well as ensuring openness and transparency in the systems, networks, and sectors that contribute to the country's development.

Furthermore, it is necessary to look into the necessity of highly educated staff, provide training to students through dual education programs based on annually approved measures, ensure their participation in educational processes at higher education institutions within specified timeframes, and facilitate practical training in relevant organizations. Additionally, it is crucial to establish systematic control tasks to monitor and regulate these activities. Dual education is a model where the academic component of education takes place in a higher educational institution, while the practical component is carried out in a work environment. As per Article 15 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Education", "Dual education" is recognized as one of the educational formats.

During the meeting on June 20, led by Shavkat Mirziyov, the video selector discussed the need for further improvement of higher education institutions. It was emphasized that teaching and scientific research processes will undergo significant changes based on best practices. Higher educational institutions will fully transition to a dual education system, following the "network - enterprise - university" chain.

Nordic International University has initiated the training of highly educated personnel in the field of journalism education (bachelor's degree) and specialization (master's degree). This includes assisting personnel with secondary specialized education in obtaining higher education. The **" UzReport Journalism, Media, and Communications Academy"** was created in collaboration with Nordic International University and "UZREPORT" Information Agency with the aim of educating contemporary journalists and information service personnel who possess diverse professional knowledge and skills, as well as high moral and intellectual qualities, in order to produce objective and relevant materials.

In this regard, Nordic International University developed and approved qualification requirements for the educational process, curriculum, and science programs in accordance with relevant organizations, based on the regulatory and legal documents that have been approved by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Dual education at the Academy is implemented in the Journalism sector and specialization, where education, science, and practical activities are effectively combined. Starting with the 2024-2025 academic year, a chance to engage in scientific and creative initiatives of both local and global significance will be established. The primary objective of the UzReport Journalism, Media, and Communications Academy is to educate proficient individuals in the area of journalism who possess up-to-date knowledge, truthfulness, flexibility, and creativity, and who are equipped with professional expertise and abilities.

On the way to this noble goal:

Firstly, activities were established to organize the "Admission-2024" campaign at the NIU. The objective is to identify talented young individuals who are literate, possess high creative abilities, and are eager to acquire authentic knowledge for journalistic pursuits. These individuals will be selected on a competitive basis. It is anticipated that 60 students will be admitted to the bachelor's degree program on a full-time basis, 60 students will be admitted on a part-time basis, and 30 students will be admitted to the master's degree program.

The selection procedure for candidates in this area of study and specialization will include two stages. The first stage is structured consisting of a test, including subjects such as mother language, literature, and history. The next stage consists of both oral and written assignments. Applicants with advanced proficiency in foreign languages are given priority.

Secondly, all admitted students get a 20-100 percent tuition grant. NIU, "UzReport" Information Agency, and other employment companies provide grants.

The bachelor's degree requires four years of full-time study, five years of part-time study, and two years of master's study. To acquire a bachelor's degree, a student must complete 240 credits, whereas a master's degree requires 120 credits. 1 credit equals 30 academic hours.

Thirdly, students have the chance to generate a supplementary income while pursuing their education. "UzReport TV" and "FTV" offer a job for individuals for various positions including reporter, technician, cameraman, editor, journalist, and SMM assistant for social networks.

Fourthly, the student acquires both theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience at the "UzReport" Information Agency through a dual education program. By participating in this, students get hands-on experience, develop professional competencies, and have the chance to showcase them to prospective employers. The dual system effectively caters to the interests of all stakeholders, including firms, workers, and the state. For the organization, this presents a chance to provide training to workers in order to achieve optimal adherence to all their standards, as well as to identify and choose individuals, resulting in cost savings on retraining and adaption expenses. For students, dual education offers a valuable chance to gain independence at an early stage and adapt to the challenges of growing up.

Fifth, students are presented with collective projects, they are encouraged to participate in foreign and local scientific grants, they are provided with training on the development of start-up projects, and "**master classes**" are organized with the invitation of foreign expert-journalists who have an outstanding record in the field of journalism.

Sixth, in addition to internships at local TV channels, students are also offered internships in many foreign countries, including Finland, USA, South Korea, Italy, Sweden, Hungary, and France.

Seventh, the university and the "UzReport" Information Agency regularly organize intellectual competitions and nominations in various categories.

Eighth, a special "Work and Travel" program will be organized for students during the summer vacation.

Expected outcomes of the Academy's activities:

Firstly, a cohort of well-educated individuals with the ability to consistently modify the system will be generated. This will be accomplished by recruiting highly trained mentors, esteemed professors and educators, renowned journalists who possess extensive expertise. They will provide guidance throughout the educational and practical journey. In addition to teaching, they provide students with ideas, advise them in effectively using library resources, search and information systems, and promote reading and personal growth. Future journalists' interests are cultivated and independent capabilities are instilled.

Secondly, individuals such as journalists, authors, political scientists, bloggers, professional press secretaries, video editors, and media designers get specialized training. They are given the chance to assess and refine their abilities in several areas of practice until they complete their studies. By using state-of-the-art IT technology, a contemporary and well-equipped media and television studio will facilitate the acquisition of essential skills through innovative techniques.

Thirdly, working with all media, publishers, agencies, companies, and organizations as well as enough chances for study and training overseas will be developed thanks to foreign partners. Students will have classrooms with the newest technology, a TV studio, a photo lab, a library, and an instructional building with all the conveniences right at hand. The activities of media centers at prominent universities in developed countries, including the United States,

Finland, Korea, Italy, Sweden, Hungary, and France, will be studied, and their practices will be implemented.

Fourthly, students will develop expertise in various aspects of journalism, including the historical background of Western and Eastern journalism, media regulations and ethical considerations, media language and writing style, international journalistic genres, publicism and documentary techniques, live broadcasting proficiency, news program preparation, and adaptation to emerging trends in journalism, such as script writing. They enhance their academic understanding with practical training.

Fifth, students will get practical knowledge from **UzReport TV**, the first information television channel in Uzbekistan, which was established in 2014, is broadcasted for 24 hours and is recognized in more than 100 countries worldwide. The UzReport news agency has established cooperation with international news agencies such as Reuters, Bloomberg, CCTV and Discovery, National Geographic projects in our country. Starting from 1999, the UzReport news agency has established the UzReport television channel, which aims to provide independent and timely information, address the public's need for news, and serve as a professional training ground for aspiring journalists. The channel focuses on improving editorial standards, promoting community engagement, and addressing unique challenges and issues that interest the creative minds of journalists.

Additionally, students may get practical knowledge from extensive information sources such as the **Football TV** channel and the prominent online www.uzreport.news. These platforms gather and disseminate news from many areas of political, economic, and cultural life in Uzbekistan. In addition to receiving instruction, students engage in collaborative practical tasks with experienced journalists.

In one word, Nordic International University's "**UzReport Journalism, Media, and Communications Academy**" provides prospective journalists with practical university experience. It will be turned into a huge academy that focuses on journalism. It acts as a training school for competitive journalists capable of carrying on the field's traditions while keeping up with new developments.