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Ministry of Science and Higher
Education of the Russian Federation

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On behalf of the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Uzbekistan, allow us to extend our greetings and have the honor to inform on the following.

In 2018, at the Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization *(SCO)* in Qingdao, China, H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan, initiated the establishment of **"Silk Road" International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage** in the ancient city of Samarkand. The University is a leading institution in Uzbekistan, preparing qualified professionals in the fields of tourism, cultural heritage, museum management and creative industries.

In order to further expand cooperation in education sector and strengthen mutual diplomatic ties between SCO member states, observer states and dialogue partners, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan awarded **85 educational grants** for graduate programmes at the "Silk Road" University. Taking into consideration the importance of bilateral relations between governments, the University is planning to award **5 grant** places *(for Fall semester 2023)* to outstanding candidates from Russia. Applications for Fall semester 2023 *(classes start in September)* are accepted until July 1, 2023.

As such, we kindly ask for your assistance in facilitating the selection process and receiving a list of candidates from Russia willing to study in one of the graduate programs at "Silk Road" International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage.

For further enquires and information, you may contact to the University's International Students and Teacher Affairs Department by e-mail at: admission@univ-silkroad.uz or telephone number +99866 240-67-78 *(detailed information is attached)*.

Appendix: __ lists.

Kind regards,

Aziz Abdukhakimov

Minister of Tourism and
Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Uzbekistan

№	APPLICATION GUIDELINE
I.	**"Silk Road" International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage in Samarkand city:**

Samarkand is one of the most ancient cities of Uzbekistan. The city is rich with various monuments of cultural heritage and archeological objects. In particular, the complex of Imam Bukhari, Registan Square, Mirzo Ulugbek madrasah, Afrosiyab museum and other cultural heritage sites are located in Samarkand.

The contemporary **International Tourist Center "Great Silk Road"** opened in August, 2022, which defines the face of **New Samarkand**. The multifunctional center includes **8** modern hotels, a Congress hall, the "Eternal City" complex, an amphitheater and many other facilities. It can serve **2** million tourists a year. A Summit of the Council of Heads of State of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization** was held there.

Also in 2023, Samarkand will become the world's tourist center. The **25th session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)** will be held in **2023** in Samarkand.

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"Silk Road" International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage in Samarkand is the first state University with **English as the main language of instruction.** Leading **international professors** and **tutors** are invited to conduct various training and capacity building programmes.

The aim of the University is to train highly qualified personnel in the field of tourism, archeology and cultural heritage.

The University closely cooperates with leading educational institutions in Asia, Europe, America and other countries across research, innovation as well as in implementing joint projects.

University students study in a state of the art "Smart campus" with the first practical HoReCa Academy in the country. Special attention should be paid to the educational and production complex, which includes simulation hotel rooms, a bar-restaurant, a Conference hall for 250 people equipped with advanced technologies, a universal gym, a swimming pool, as well as a **digital library** *(with more than 25 000 books),* acting as a **fully-fledged high-tech** center for tourism knowledge *(details about the University at this link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQb3RfUv4GPAX890Za7b5Jw).*

Since 2021, the University started receiving state grants from the government of Uzbekistan for foreign students. This initiative aims to strengthen academic ties across tourism and cultural heritage, as well as facilitate cultural and educational exchange between SCO countries.

The University attracted more than **15** foreign professors and teachers who worked in foreign higher educational institutions *(USA, China, Japan, India, Australia, Italy, Turkey)* in order to provide high level of education. Among them prof. Joseph Hoffman from USA and prof. Tongqian Zou from China have been working as Vice-Rectors at the "Silk Road" University.

II.	Available fields of the University for Master's degree program:
	➢ Logistics in tourism; ➢ Tourism *(by field of activity)*; ➢ Museum Studies; ➢ Management of cultural heritage; ➢ Creative industry; ➢ Archeology.
III.	Required documents for application:
	1. Identity document *(passport/ID card)*; 2. Bachelor's degree diploma; 3. Photo 3x4; 4. CV of the applicant *(contacts and e-mail of applicant for further connection)*; 5. Language proficiency certificate *(**IELTS** – 6.0, **CEFR** – B2, **TOEFL iBM** – 72 score)*; 6. Essay *(plans after graduation, on the topic of "Contributing to the development of tourism of the SCO countries", 1-1,5 pages length)*. *Note: Applicants must upload electronic copies of the above-mentioned documents at the website of the admissions office:* **http://admissions.univ-silkroad.uz**
IV.	**Application procedure and period for <u>Spring Semester</u>:**
	1. Application submission deadline - **20th** of **January, 2023**; 2. Interview *(online)* with applicant starts from **21st January to 30th** of **January 2023** *(regularly check e-mail for online interview invitation link)*; 3. Based on Admission decision, additional test could be requested from the applicant *(regularly check e-mail)*; 4. Results announcement starts from **31st January** to **5th February** of **2023** *(regularly check e-mail for results and official website of admission commission);* 5. Visa application process starts from **1st** of **February 2023** *(Enrolment to the University starts from 27th of February 2023)*.
	Application procedure and period for <u>Fall Semester</u>:
	1. Application submission deadline **1st** of **July, 2023**; 2. Interview *(online)* with applicant starts from **1st** to **15th** of **July 2023** *(regularly check e-mail for online interview invitation link)*; 3. Based on Admission decision, additional test could be requested from the applicant *(regularly check e-mail);* 4. Results announcement starts from **16th** to **20th** of **July 2023** *(regularly check e-mail for results and official website of admission commission);*

	5. Visa application process starts from **20th** of **July 2023** *(Enrolment to the University starts from 4th of September 2023)*.
V.	**The following expenses are covered by the grant:**
	1. On the basis of this state grant, successful applicants from the SCO member states, observer countries, partners in dialogue and states wishing to join will be provided with one return **economy class air ticket** for travel to Uzbekistan **every year;** **2.** Each grant holder will receive a **stipend** in the amount of the equivalent of **500 USD per month**, for **dormitory expenses** in the amount of the equivalent of **100 USD per month;** **3.** **Twice a year** trips to the ancient cities of Uzbekistan will be organized to acquaint students with the historical cities, rich architecture, local customs and traditions of Uzbekistan. To cover the travel expenses, each grant holder will be allocated with the equivalent of **100 USD, for each travel time.**
VI.	**Website and official pages of the university on social media:**
	Website: https://univ-silkroad.uz/ru Telegram channel: https://t.me/univ_silkroad_uz Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/univsilkroad.uz Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/univ_silkroad_uz Twitter: https://twitter.com/univsilkroad
VII.	**Additional information and contacts:**
	For further details and questions, please do not hesitate to contact to Irina Muhamednazarova, Head of Department of International students and teachers affairs of the University and Akbar Abdukhalilov chief specialist of Department of International students and teachers affairs of the University. *mobile: (+99890) 270-25-28, (+99893) 665-09-55.* *e-mail:* admission@univ-silkroad.uz, admission@univ-silkroad.uz.