

# Chinese Influence in Georgia's Academia

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# Diverse Sino-Georgian Academic Cooperation

- Research and scientific programs,
- Exchange programs for students and staff,
- Joint conferences and workshops,
- Language and Culture Centers, Confucius Institutes,
- Civil society initiatives, China-Georgia Friendship Association and others.
- Joint bachelor's and master's programs

# China-Georgia Strategic Partnership



Shift to a new stage of academic cooperation::

- *3.4 The two sides will enhance their cooperation in science and higher education. They will promote exchange of teachers and students, strengthen cooperation in science and commercialization of new technologies and implement joint projects.*
- *3.5 The two sides support universities in both countries in carrying out practical cooperation such as joint training programs, and encourage universities to make full use of high-quality digital education resources and combine online and offline channels for cooperation. The two sides will promote student exchange and joint cultivation by making good use of government scholarships and other channels.*
- *3.6 Both sides attach importance to language exchange and cooperation, encourage schools of both countries to carry out Chinese and Georgian languages teaching, stand ready to strengthen exchanges and training of language teachers and support the building of Confucius Institutes (Classrooms).*





# Outcomes of the Strategic Partnership

- On December 4, 2023, **two more scholarships** were allocated for Georgian students to allow them to study in China.
- On December 16, 2023, the Minister of Education of Georgia, Giorgi Amilakhvari, attended the closing event of the International Education Center, where he presented the award to the Chinese embassy and mentioned that **within the frames of the Partnership Cooperation with China**, the International Education Center successfully implements various academic programs.
- On April 11, 2024, Giorgi Amilakhvari met the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Georgia Chou Tsien. “At the meeting, the parties discussed the implementation, within the scope of the signed cooperation memorandum, of joint educational projects at the secondary education level and the ways to seek educational resources to promote **teaching the Chinese language at schools**.”

# Sino-Georgian Academic Cooperation from the Georgian Media Perspective

- Online platform "Sinomedia" - promotion of educational initiatives, competitions, academic programs, language courses and other similar activities



# State-owned Media

- Imedi, Post TV and others...
  - Expected visit of then Prime Minister Gharibashvili to China
  - Visit plans
  - The visit and its results
- The opening ceremony of Shota Rustaveli's bust at Beijing University

***"Georgia is moving to the highest stage of relations with China. this is a strategic partnership. and it is within the framework of the Strategic Partnership that cooperation in the direction of education and science is also expanding" - Giorgi Amilakhvari***

# Chinese Rebranding of the Georgian University

~~Guram Tavartkiladze Teaching University~~



Georgian International University – GIU



*Georgia International Education Investment*



38%



90%



GEORGIAN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

# Chinese Rebranding of the Georgian University

Kuang Zengzhong



Georgia International Education Investment



China Foreign Education Group

- ❖ Founder of GIU (since 2020)
- ❖ Founder of the Chinese Institute of International Education



The terms of purchasing GIU's shares are kept confidential in the public register.



## International Partners

- Ancient Wines (China) <https://geocultureasia.org/>
- Georgian Culture Asia Association (China) <https://geocultureasia.org/>
- China International Education Group (China) <https://www.ciegr.com/>
- Guangzhou International Economics College (China) [https://www.gziec.org/?page\\_id=17213](https://www.gziec.org/?page_id=17213)  
(Represents the affiliated college of China International Education Group)

## Hong-Kong based Chinese entities

- The leading Chinese state television channel **ViuTV**
- A Memorandum Of Understanding signed with China's Belt and Road International Cooperation Development Working Committee



謝謝

Thank you 😊