

FULBRIGHT ETA SEMINAR

04 – 05 December 2025

US Embassy in Tashkent and Webster University in Tashkent

Welcome Message from Dr. Jean Paul van Marissing

It is a true pleasure and honor to welcome you to the 2025 ETA Enrichment Seminar, co-hosted by the U.S. Embassy and Webster University in Tashkent. I speak on behalf of our entire academic community when I say how proud we are to once again support and stand beside a program that embodies the very spirit of educational exchange and cultural understanding.

Since its launch, the Fulbright ETA program has contributed immensely to the region's English education reform and has helped shape thousands of young minds — urban and rural alike. You, the ETAs, bring more than language skills into your classrooms. You bring curiosity, diversity, and compassion. You create space for critical thinking, for authentic dialogue, and for growth—not just for your students, but for yourselves.

Since its founding in 2019, Webster University in Tashkent has established itself as a preeminent institution in Central Asia and has had the privilege of collaborating closely with the U.S. embassy in Tashkent. At Webster University, we are deeply committed to empowering educators and future leaders. Over the past few years, it has been our privilege to host ETA seminars and capacity-building workshops focused on media literacy, intercultural communication, and educational innovation. These are not just events—they are part of a growing legacy of collaboration that strengthens both the American and Uzbek educational landscapes.

This year's agenda is especially exciting. From exploring AI in English instruction to Education 4.0, and from intercultural frameworks to mechanisms for sustained collaboration—you will be engaging with thought leaders and practitioners at the very cutting edge of education. I am especially proud to note that many of these sessions are led by Webster faculty and alumni, some of whom were once ETAs themselves. This is what impact looks like—it echoes and multiplies.

To our current ETAs: thank you for the work you are doing, often in unfamiliar and challenging environments. Your presence in classrooms across Central Asia is not only welcomed, it is transformative.

I encourage all of you to use these two days not only to learn, but to share your experiences and plant seeds for future collaboration. We are honored to be part of your journey, and we look forward to supporting your continued growth.

Once again—welcome to Webster University, and welcome to this community of educators, changemakers, and bridge-builders.

Fulbright ETA Seminar Agenda and Key Takeaways

Venue: Panarams Hotel, Boyqo'rgo'n ko'chasi, 2; +998 (78) 113 33 31; panarams.uz

Date: December 4-5

04 December	Topic	Facilitator	Venue
09:00 – 10:00	Registration	Farrukh Muminov	Panarams
10:00 – 10:30	Opening Remarks	H.E. Ambassador Jonathan Henick Dr. Jean Paul van Marissing, Rector WUT Dr. Rasul Rakhmonov, Executive Director CIEP	Pangrams
10:30 – 11:30	AI and English Instruction	Dr. Oybek Imomov	Panarams
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee Break	Azamjon Isomidinov & Masuda Juraeva	Panarams
12:00 – 13:00	Mobilizing Intercultural Dialogue for the Benefit of Both Learners and Teachers	Dr. Adrien Houget	Panarams
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	Azamjon Isomidinov & Masuda Juraeva	Panarams
14:00 – 15:00	Teaching Critical Thinking Skills in a Central Asian Context	Mr. Tristan Hicks	Panarams
15:00 – 16:30	Incorporating American Excellence Themes into English Instruction	Ms. Karen Nucitelli	Panarams
16:30	Cultural Master Class	Azamjon Isomidinov	Outdoor Activities
19:00	Dinner	Aziz Nishanov	Khan Chapan
	Transfer to hotel		Panarams

05 December	Topic	Facilitator	Panarams
09:00 – 09:30	Real Strategies for Real Classrooms	Dr. Giuseppe Chiaramonte	Bukhara Hall Panarams
09:30 – 10:30	Operating Effectively within the Local Context	Ms. Hannah Rothwell	Bukhara Hall Panarams
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break & Networking	Azamjon Isomidinov & Masuda Juraeva	Bukhara Hall Panarams
11:00 – 12:00	Education 4.0 and Curriculum Development in a Digital Era	Ms. Olga Russkikh	Bukhara Hall Panarams
12:00 – 13:00	Brainstorming session: Mechanisms for sustained collaboration among ETA's	Ms. Marija Kovac	Bukhara Hall Panarams
13:00-14:00	Lunch	Azamjon & Masuda	Bukhara Hall Panarams
14:00 – 14:45	Roundtable Discussions	Lyla Galh, Taylor Naufflett, Emili Tchorz	Bukhara Hall Panarams
14:45 – 15:30	Presentation on Cultural Activities of the US Embassy in Tashkent	Mr. Sardor Gaziev	Bukhara Hall Panarams
15:30-16:00	Closing Speeches and Awarding of Certificates	Dr. Jean Paul van Marissing	Bukhara Hall Panarams
16:00-18:00	Tashkent City Tour	Azamjon Isomiddinov	Tashkent City
18:00-18:45	Break		Panarams
18:45	Dinner	Azamjon Isomiddinov	Bier Regen
	Transfer to hotel		Panarams

Contact people.

Please feel free to reach out to the following team members with any questions or requests:

Mr. Azizjon Nishonov – Project Coordinator

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Dr. Oybek Imomov – Undergraduate Deputy Academic Director

AI and English Instruction

Oybek Imomov earned his Doctor of Education (EdD) in Transformative Learning from Webster University. He also holds a B.A. in English Philology and an M.A. in Linguistics from the Uzbek State World Languages University (UzSWLU), as well as an associate degree in Information Systems Technology from Union County College, USA.

He has been with Webster University since 2018, gaining valuable experience as an MA TESOL instructor and program leader. Prior to joining Webster, Dr. Imomov worked as a systems administrator for the Moodle Distance Learning Platform and as an English language instructor at UzSWLU. He is passionate about integrating technology into education to make learning more interactive and effective.

Key Takeaways

By the end of this session, participants will:

- Identify key opportunities AI offers in English instruction
- Recognize challenges and limitations of using AI in diverse classroom contexts
- Explore practical strategies for integrating AI tools effectively and ethically
- Reflect on how AI can support learner engagement, creativity, and autonomy

Dr Adrien Houguet – Vice-President of Alliance Francaise Tashkent

Mobilizing Intercultural Dialogue for the Benefit of Both Learners and Teachers

Adrien Houguet is a Franco-German PhD specialized in the field of cultural diplomacy.

His research primarily focuses on the artistic activities of French and German cultural institutes, particularly within the post-Soviet region.

Adrien Houguet participates in international conferences and contributes articles in English, French, German, and Russian.

Furthermore, he is the vice-president of the French Alliance in Tashkent as well as a published poet.

Key Takeaways

By the end of the session, participants will:

- Understand the mechanisms and objectives of intercultural dialogue in both teaching and learning processes.
- Adapt strategies for intercultural dialogue to the specific socio-cultural context of Central Asia in both lesson planning and student projects.
- Prioritize structure over content in teaching delivery, valuing students' insights through the method of Jacques Rancière's "The Ignorant Schoolmaster."
- Design new multicultural frameworks and knowledge spaces through genuine, reciprocal teacher-student exchange in different cultural contexts.

Mr Tristan Hicks – Graduate Academic Manager and MA TESOL Program Leader

Teaching Critical Thinking Skills in a Central Asian Context

Tristan Hicks is the Graduate Academic Manager and MA TESOL Program Leader at Webster University in Tashkent. He has delivered teacher training in eight countries, including workshops for Fulbright cohorts in Slovakia, Kosovo and Uzbekistan. He served as a US Department of State English Language Fellow in India and Kosovo and has over a decade of experience in higher education. Tristan has worked or studied at universities in ten countries across four continents.

Key Takeaways

By the end of the session, participants will:

- Learn the importance of teaching critical thinking in the classroom and how to apply this knowledge in the cultural contexts of their host institutions
- Leave with a toolkit of more than five actionable and low-prep activities that they can use in their own classrooms
- Learn strategies to embed critical thinking into everyday lessons and lesson design
- Learn skills to be more effective teachers, enhancing the impact of the Fulbright program and supporting the objectives of the United States

Ms. Karen Nucitelli – Adjunct Professor, Webster University in Tashkent

Incorporating American Excellence Themes into English Instruction

Karen is an adjunct professor at Webster University in Tashkent who joined Webster University in 2025. She is a former highly decorated U.S. Air Force International Affairs Officer, with 25 years of honorable service. She has an MA TESOL degree from Webster University as well as a MA in Diplomacy from Norwich University in addition to a BS in Psychology from the University of Illinois.

Ms. Nucitelli is passionate about building capacity through language and education. She is a member of the American Association of University Women where she serves on their scholarship and mentorship committees and facilitates their Foreign Policy Association Discussion Group.

Key Takeaways

By the end of the session, participants will:

- Gain insights into incorporating themes of American excellence into lesson plans while considering the local context
- Understand how to promote active and experiential learning through engaging activities
- Gain the capacity to develop clear, concise, relevant, and understandable lesson plans and rubrics
- Understand the value of uncovering students' "Why" and becoming more effective in motivating them

Dr. Giuseppe Chiaramonte – English Language Fellow, Uzbekistan State University of World Languages

EL Fellow at Uzbekistan State World Languages University is a seasoned educator and leader with experience teaching international students in college, high school, and middle school. He has taught English as a Second Language (ESL) as an adjunct instructor at MiraCosta College, Southwestern College, Palomar College, and as a supervisory high school teacher. He is responsible for instructing a diverse population of ESL learners and training faculty and administrators in current English Language Learner (ELL) curriculum and assessment strategies. The professional experience he gained as an educator, small business owner, professional baseball player, consultant, coach, researcher, and law enforcement officer has

helped him to create strong support and engagement strategies for his students, while improving his overall cultural awareness and responsiveness. Further, his completed doctoral research focused on the effects of teacher self-efficacy on ELL assessment practices and the role of professional development in developing equitable grading strategies. From September 2024 through July 2025, Giuseppe was an English Language Fellow at Nukus State Pedagogical Institute.

- Gain insights into practical, student-centered strategies anyone can use to boost engagement, confidence, and meaningful communication in Central Asia classrooms
- Understand how to incorporate methods of education pioneers such as Vygotsky, Piaget, Bandura, and Dewey into the classroom
- Understand how to incorporate fun, interactive methods that build self-efficacy for both teachers and students

Ms. Hannah Rothwell – Adjunct Professor, Webster University in Tashkent

Operating Effectively in the Local Context

Hannah Rothwell is a dynamic educator connecting students to their learning goals with innovative and creative methods. She is a Fulbright ETA ('21-'22) alumna from the United States and has 6 years of teaching experience in Jordan and Uzbekistan. She has a Bachelor's degree in Economics and International Affairs from the University of Mary Washington in the United States, a Master's degree in Education and Innovation (MAEDIN) from Webster University in Tashkent, and is currently Pursuing her Doctorate of Education (Ed.D) focused on Transformative Learning in the Global Community from Webster University in St Louis. She is an adjunct professor in the MAEDIN program at Webster University Tashkent, and is the co-founder and academic coordinator of OPUS Language School- the first fully-English private school in Fergana

Key Takeaways

By the end of the session, participants will:

- Understand how to teach effectively in the local context
- Gain insights into critically analyzing the local context and its incentive structures
- Understand the value of a cultural translator

Ms. Olga Russkikh - Adjunct Professor, Webster University in Tashkent

Education 4.0 and Curriculum Development in a Digital Era

Olga Russkikh is a teaching instructor at Webster University with over 20 years of experience in education. She holds a master's degree in education and innovation from Webster University and a degree in psychology. Currently pursuing her doctorate in education with an emphasis on Transformative Learning in Global Communities, her academic and professional interests center on transformative learning, inclusive pedagogies, and the intersection of psychology and education. Olga integrates innovative approaches and digital tools to enhance student engagement and create an inspiring, student-centered classroom atmosphere. She is particularly committed to supporting neurodiverse learners and applying creative, research-based strategies to promote equitable and transformative educational experiences.

Key Takeaways

By the end of the session, participants will:

- Understand the core principles of Education 4.0 and its implications for teaching and learning
- Explore the skills and competencies required for learners and educators in the digital era
- Learn how to redesign curricula to align with Education 4.0 goals
- Identify digital tools and pedagogical strategies that foster innovation and engagement
- Begin drafting an action plan to adapt their own courses or programs

Ms. Marija Kovac - Adjunct Professor, Webster University in Tashkent

Brainstorming session: Mechanisms for sustained collaboration among ETA's

Marija Kovač is a teacher educator. Her international teaching experience (at universities and NGOs), participation at professional conferences, and a bit of project work have done wonders in keeping her curious about most education and leadership issues. As a media literacy trainer, a human rights education trainer and an educational consultant, she does her utmost to develop programs which teach what matters.

Currently, she is an MA TESOL and MA EDIN instructor at Webster University Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

By the end of the session, participants will:

- Understand that connection leads to collaboration

- Understand that clarity drives action
- Understand that they are their own best resource