

Call for Applications

Life in Kyrgyzstan International Summer School on Impact Evaluation Methods in Central Asia

Summary

Dates:	21–28 June 2015
Application Deadline:	15 March 2015
Online Programme Deadline:	25 April 2015
Location:	Ak-Maral Resort, Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan
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Description

Central Asia is one of the most under-researched regions in the world. At the same time, evidence-based policy making is rarely practiced in Central Asia. Both deficits are related to a lack of suitable micro data and limited capacity to understand or practice rigorous impact evaluations.

The ‘Life in Kyrgyzstan’ International Summer School on ‘Impact Evaluation Methods in Central Asia’ is being offered in 2015 to promote the capacity of researchers, practitioners and policy makers in the region to commission, conduct and interpret rigorous impact evaluations and increase their role in evidence-based policy making. The School is being offered by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the Institute of Public Policy and Administration of the University of Central Asia, International Security and Development Center (ISDC) and the United Nations University Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT).

The Summer School will teach the theory and practice of theory-based impact evaluations and related state-of-the-art quantitative and qualitative techniques. Participants will gain a high-level understanding of the importance of these instruments and their role in the design and assessment of public policies and development interventions.

Course content will include lectures on rigorous impact evaluations, experimental and quasi-experimental methods to conduct evaluations and how to implement them. Participants will also gain hands-on experience designing impact evaluations through group exercises and they will learn about the 'Life in Kyrgyzstan' panel dataset collected by the organisers.

Format

The Summer School will take place from the 21 to 28 June 2015. The main language of instruction will be Russian. However, key sessions will be delivered in English with simultaneous translation into Russian. Sessions will include lectures, class discussions, group work, and case study exercises.

Confirmed speakers include:

Instructors:

- Professor Tilman Brück, Director, ISDC
- Dr Eleonora Nillesen, UNU-MERIT
- Dr Damir Esenaliev, SIPRI
- Dr Anastasia Aladysheva, SIPRI

Who should apply?

- Practitioners, professionals and academics commissioning, conducting or interpreting impact evaluations at national or international organisations, non-governmental organisations, agencies, ministries, universities and think tanks based in or working with Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan).
- Applicants residing and working outside Central Asia will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- A completed first degree in a relevant social science is a minimum requirement for acceptance.
- A working knowledge of basic statistics is required. The online component of the selection process includes basic statistics exercises.
- Graduate students may apply but will not be given priority.

Cost

Participation is free of charge for up to twenty successful applicants and will cover:

- Tuition.

- Regional travel expenses based on reasonable and average air and bus ticket prices.
- Economy class return travel from Bishkek to Issyk-Kul.
- Accommodation and food.

Additional spaces are available for self-funded participants.

Application requirements

Applicants should submit, in English or Russian:

- A one-page curriculum vitae; and
- A one-page essay on their motivation to attend the Summer School and how their attendance will benefit impact evaluation and policymaking in Central Asia.
- A letter of support from their current employer.

These should be submitted via email to ssie2015@gmail.com, with 'Summer School Application' in the subject line.

The application deadline is 15 March 2015. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted by 30 March 2015.

Participants are required to bring their own laptops to the Summer School, with MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint software installed.

Compulsory Preparatory Course

Shortlisted candidates will be required to complete an online three-week programme that includes reading background materials, a research assignment on impact evaluations and an online test. This must be completed and submitted by 25 April 2015.

Selection and schedule

Successful candidates will be selected by 10 May 2015 and will attend the six-day Summer School in June 2015. Upon successful completion of the Summer School, the participants will receive a certificate of attendance.

Organising Institutions

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament. Established in 1966, SIPRI provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open



sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public. Based in Stockholm, SIPRI also has a presence in Beijing and Washington, DC and is regularly ranked among the most respected think tanks worldwide. For more information on SIPRI, visit www.sipri.org.

Institute of Public Policy and Administration, University of Central Asia

The Institute of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Central Asia provides in-depth analysis of Central Asian economic policies and quality professional development opportunities for civil servants in the region. For more information on the Institute, visit www.ucentralasia.org/ippa.asp.

ISDC - International Security and Development Center

ISDC - International Security and Development Center provides evidence-based analysis and policy advice on the interactions of security, conflict, violence and fragility with socio-economic development, growth, employment and poverty alleviation. ISDC is based in Berlin and collaborates with a broad range of partners in academia, policy making and practice. For more information on ISDC, visit www.isd-center.org.

United Nations University – Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology

UNU-MERIT is a joint research and training institute of United Nations University and Maastricht University, based in the south of the Netherlands. The institute explores the social, political and economic factors that drive technological innovation, with a particular focus on creation, diffusion and access to knowledge. UNU-MERIT covers all aspects of governance in domestic and global organizations, from risk assessment to policy analysis, design and evaluation. For more information on UNU-MERIT, visit www.merit.unu.edu.

Funder

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