

**Development and Social Change in Central Asia:
Contemporary Issues in Central Asia
SUMMER PRACTICUM PROGRAM 2018
Bard College and American University of Central Asia**

The Summer Practicum Program (SPP) is part of the Bard-AUCA collaboration in the area of undergraduate student exchange from North American colleges and universities. It is a **4-week program** in Kyrgyzstan.

The overarching theme of the practicum is **Development and Social Change in Central Asia**. The practicum will have three interlinked components:

1. **Interdisciplinary coursework** with readings that provide a theoretical and methodological foundation for the participants to delve into the connections between theory and the work of development NGOs and policy organizations in Kyrgyzstan's dynamic multi-ethnic society. This coursework will be delivered in a classroom lecture format by a designated AUCA Faculty from the Politics and Social Sciences Studies. The program will include some guest lectures held by the invited professors from other programs of AUCA.
2. **Visits with development organizations** whereby students gain first-hand exposure to key development stakeholders - local as well as international - in the region. These visits will be followed by critical reflection and group-work back at the AUCA campus. This component is facilitated by a designated Teaching Assistant / Resource Person –affiliated with the Development Clinic of AUCA
3. **Cultural programs** representing both Kyrgyzstan's rich traditions as well as the vibrant contemporary art and civic life in Bishkek. The Office of International Students would organize these cultural activities.

Participants: Besides the North American students (selected by Bard College), the practicum will seek enrollment of a small cohort of AUCA and other partner exchange students. The inclusion of AUCA students will enrich the overall learning experience of all participants.

Credits: 4 US credits (equivalent to 8 ECTS)

Dates: June 6 to July 7, 2018.