History of the University
The first-ever national university in the Caucasus was opened in 1918 laying the foundation for a European-type higher school in Georgia, based on Georgian educational traditions.
The idea of foundation of the university first emerged as far back as the early 19th century amid intensification of the struggle for liberation from Russian empire.

A new generation led by great Georgian public figure Ilia Chavchavadze, with whom a new stage of spiritual revival in the history of our country is connected, appeared on the scene in the sixties of the 19th century. The struggle for establishing the university became especially vigorous during those years.
Real possibilities of establishing a higher school have opened up after the Nobiliary Manorial Estate Bank was founded in Tbilisi. It was the only bank throughout the Russian empire, which spent its incomes to promote the cultural-educational and economic interests of the nation.
From the beginning of the 20th century Ivane Javakhishvili, who underwent his studies in Petersburg and became its assistant professor, started to organize the foundation of the Georgian University. From the very first days of the February 1917 revolution, Ivane Javakhishvili, who was in Petersburg by then, started active preparations for the opening of a higher educational institution.

The first gathering of the founders of the University Society was held at the apartment of Petre Melikishvili in Tbilisi on May 12. The gathering was chaired by Ekvtime Takaishvili. It was just on that day, when the Georgian Free University Society was established, which later played a huge role in the foundation of the University.

In autumn 1917 the founders of the University intensified their efforts to open a higher educational institution. It was decided to establish only one faculty initially – the faculty of philosophy, which would have united humanitarian fields as well as natural science and mathematics. In late December Georgian press already reported about the enrolment of the first students into the Georgian University.
The Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU) is a spiritual and intellectual successor of multi-century Georgian culture, humanistic traditions and old Georgian educational, scientific and cultural centres. The mission of this first Georgian university is:

• To establish national and universal values;
• To promote the intellectual, moral, cultural and socio-economic development of the society;
• To develop the university traditions through innovative research and learning;
• To protect academic freedom;
• To take care of personal and professional development of students and professors;
• To create, maintain and transfer knowledge;
• To develop basic and applied research studies;
• To promote student-centered learning and to train competitive staff;
• To promote continuing education;
• To develop international academic and scientific collaboration;
• To provide honorary membership of the free global university society.
The history of higher medical education originates from October 1918 when the Faculty of Medicine was established at the Tbilisi State University. Since May 1919, by decision of the Board of Professors, the Medical Faculty continued to exist as an independent unit until 1930 when the Tbilisi State Medical Institute was founded on the basis of the Medical Faculty.

In 1995, higher medical education was restored at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, first at the Faculty of Biology and Medicine as medical specialization, and in 2000 as an independent faculty.

Currently the faculty is running one-tier academic programs for physicians and dentists. Since 2006, within the framework of TEMPUS project, there has been operating a new bachelor’s program in occupational therapy in full accordance with the Bologna Process and Tuning Methodology. In clinical and theoretical departments of the faculty, teaching process is conducted in the leading medical institutions. Distinguished students receive professional training in Germany, at the academic study clinics of the Universities of Leipzig and Dresden.

The faculty is running alternative to residency post-diploma academic programs, as well as Master’s (Public Health, Epidemiology and Biostatistics) and Doctoral programs.

During the last few years, numerous scientific conferences (among them international) dedicated to actual problems of medicine were organized by the faculty. The academic staff published scientific works in high impact scholarly journals; textbooks, monographs, and translations were issued as well. The faculty academic staff permanently participates in national and international scientific grant projects.
During the pre-session meeting of the University’s Board of Professors, which was held on December 19, 1917 and which discussed the future university’s curriculum and terms of enrollment, Ivane Javakhishvili acquainted his colleagues with the will of famous Georgian publicist Kita Abashidze, according to which his library was handed over to the University. This private collection laid the foundation for the University’s book depository, which was mainly growing due to the donations from individuals and institutions. Two years later, number of books kept by the University Fund exceeded 100,000.

The book depositories of the Black Stone Industrialists Council, former Caucasian Censorship Committee, Society for the Spreading of Literacy among Georgians, Georgian History and Ethnography Society, and Tiflis School for Nobility were handed over to the University Library. The library became significantly rich owing to private donations. In particular, the University Library was enriched by private collections of Davit Sarajishvili, Svimon Kldiaashvili, Petre Melikishvili, Ekvtime Takaishvili, Alexandre Tsagareli, Dimitri Bakradze, Tedo Zhordania, Vasil Petriashvili and other prominent Georgians. In addition, bookstores and publishing houses used to present their books to the University. During foreign scientific missions, Georgian scientists used to purchase various books for the University Library with their own money. After the establishment, the Library was led by Professor Giorgi Akhvlediani, who was later replaced by Professors Akaki Shanidze, Grigol Tsereteli, Shalva Nutsabidze, etc.

In 1938, the University Book Depository was called the Fundamental Library and from 1950, it was named the Scientific Library. In 1997, the library was named after Grigol Tsereteli, but presently it is called the University Library. The Georgian University Library has one of the richest book collections containing scientific and educational literature, rare Georgian and foreign books as well as periodicals.
**Students Life**

The university students have very interesting activities. They participate in students’ scientific conferences, excursions, competitions, festivals, several events, etc. There are several clubs of students with different interests: sports, dances, etc. The University provides all possibilities to develop oneself at full potential and enjoy learning and leisure time as well.
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