

HOW CAN GEORGIA IMPROVE ITS EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS?

International School of Economics at Tbilisi State University (ISET – www.iset.ge) invites applications for participation in its Annual Essay Competition.

Young professionals, recent university graduates, and fourth-year undergraduate students from Georgia are eligible to take part in this competition. The best three essays will be awarded the following money prizes: first place - **USD 300**, second place- **USD 200**, and third place- **USD 100**.

The general theme of the competition is “How Can Georgia Improve its Export Competitiveness?” Applicants are invited to write short essays answering this question with reference to one specific sector of the Georgian economy. Essays are expected to include short background about the sector in question, the main export markets, recent export dynamics and perceived barriers to gaining larger market share. Essays should conclude with recommendations concerning the ways to increase the sector’s productivity or otherwise promote its international competitiveness. Participants are strongly encouraged to make use of available statistical data.

The selection committee consists of ISET’s international professors with PhDs in economics from world class institutions, including Columbia University, George Washington University, and University of Pennsylvania among others. Please note that all submitted essays will be checked for plagiarism. Essays violating internationally accepted norms of academic ethics will be disqualified.

To take part in the competition:

Send **your essay** and **CV** to essay@iset.ge before **March 25, 3pm (Tbilisi time)**. Essays should not exceed 3-pages (up to 1,500 words) and should be written **in English**.

Shortlisted candidates will present their essays at a student conference to be held at ISET in early April.

For additional information please contact:

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Established in 2006, ISET is sponsored by a consortium of prominent international donors, including BP, the CERGE-EI Foundation, the Government of Georgia, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Open Society Foundation, Swedish International Cooperation Agency, US Agency for International Development, and the World Bank. It is the only institution in the South Caucasus offering an international-caliber Master’s Program in Economics. From a total of 153 ISET graduates, 97% are currently employed or studying abroad. ISETers hold leading analytical positions in the National Banks and ministries in all three South Caucasus countries and study in PhD programs at Stanford University, University of Chicago, New York University and University of Pennsylvania, among others.