

## Basic Profile & Mission

- **Name & Meaning**

The name in Uzbek, *El-Yurt Umidi* (sometimes “El-yurt umidi”), roughly means “Hope of the Nation / Hope for the Homeland.”

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- **Nature & Affiliation**

It is a government-affiliated foundation in Uzbekistan, originally established under the Cabinet of Ministers, but in 2025 reorganized under the President’s administration to more directly manage strategic human capital development.

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- **Founding & Purpose**

The “El-Yurt Umidi” Foundation was formally founded (in its modern incarnation) around **25 September 2018** by decree of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, to support talented youth and professionals, especially by enabling them to study abroad, bring international experience back home, and contribute to national development.

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Its core objectives include:

1. Promoting the identification, support, and development of talented youth and specialists. [Asian News from UK+4brightmindpublishing.com+4O'zbekiston Respublikasi Hukumat portali+4](http://Asian+News+from+UK+4brightmindpublishing.com+4O'zbekiston+Respublikasi+Hukumat+portali+4)
2. Organizing scholarship and grant competitions (bachelor’s, master’s, doctoral) to allow Uzbek citizens to study at top foreign universities under sponsorship. [https://yuz.uz+7ifp-school.com+7diasporafordevelopment.eu+7](http://https://yuz.uz+7ifp-school.com+7diasporafordevelopment.eu+7)
3. Supporting returning scholars: encouraging them to work in Uzbekistan, facilitating career paths, ensuring social protection, and using their international experience to lift national education, governance, science, etc. [Qalampir.uz+4UzDaily.uz+4https://yuz.uz+4](http://Qalampir.uz+4UzDaily.uz+4https://yuz.uz+4)
4. Establishing dialogue and collaboration with foreign universities, international experts, and Uzbek diaspora specialists abroad. [Qalampir.uz+4diasporafordevelopment.eu+4brightmindpublishing.com+4](http://Qalampir.uz+4diasporafordevelopment.eu+4brightmindpublishing.com+4)
5. Monitoring and aligning scholarship programs with Uzbekistan’s strategic needs: i.e., ensuring that recipients study in fields in demand, improving public administration, science, technology, etc. [Wikipedia+3UzDaily.uz+3https://yuz.uz+3](http://Wikipedia+3UzDaily.uz+3https://yuz.uz+3)

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## Programs, Scholarships & Mechanisms

### Eligibility & Conditions

- **Citizenship**

Only citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan are eligible for the foundation’s scholarship competitions. [https://yuz.uz+3admission.eyuf.uz+3Asian News from UK+3](http://https://yuz.uz+3admission.eyuf.uz+3Asian+News+from+UK+3)

- **Age & Work Experience Requirements**
  - For **doctoral** (PhD) programs: typically candidates aged 22–45; must not have earned a PhD abroad previously; usually require ~2 years of work experience (though exceptions apply for recommendations). [O‘zbekiston Respublikasi Hukumat portali+4admission.eyuf.uz+4brightmindpublishing.com+4](#)
  - For **master’s** programs: typically ages 20–45 (or similar), with conditions not to have previously studied abroad in the same field, plus work experience requirements in some cases. [Wikipedia+3admission.eyuf.uz+3brightmindpublishing.com+3](#)
  - For **undergraduate / bachelor’s** programs: usually under ~25 years old; must not previously study abroad in a similar undergraduate program. [admission.eyuf.uz+2brightmindpublishing.com+2](#)
- **Competition & Selection**  
Scholarship allocation is conducted via multi-stage open competitions: submission of documents, intellectual/subject examinations, interviews. The foundation advertises its calls, holds informational seminars, and seeks equitable access across regions. [O‘zbekiston Respublikasi Hukumat portali+3Asian News from UK+3brightmindpublishing.com+3](#)
- **What Costs Are Covered**  
Recipients (scholarship holders) receive support for:
  - Tuition fees at the foreign institution
  - Travel costs (round trip, annually)
  - Visa costs
  - Educational materials, textbooks, scientific publications, subscriptions
  - Medical insurance
  - Publication fees (e.g. for articles)
  - Some living costs (depending on the conditions)<https://yuz.uz+3admission.eyuf.uz+3brightmindpublishing.com+3>

## Scale & Impact

- **Number of Scholars / Countries**  
By some counts, from 2018–19 to 2022–23, the foundation has supported **1,626 students** to study in over 40 countries. [Asian News from UK+2brightmindpublishing.com+2](#)  
By 2025, reports claim that **2,225 scholarship holders** have been sent to study in nearly 45 countries. [Qalampir.uz+1](#)
- **Return & Employment**  
As of recent reports, about **1,400** of those who studied abroad have returned and are employed in sectors like economy, public administration, science, medicine, education. [Qalampir.uz+1](#)
- **University Partnerships & MOUs**  
The foundation has signed cooperation agreements with many foreign universities and organizations. For example:
  - University of Missouri (in the U.S.) has an agreement with the foundation. [International Programs](#)
  - In 2024, the foundation and the University of Sydney signed a memorandum; under this, scholarship holders get a 20% tuition discount, and the foundation helps in supervisor matching. [Qalampir.uz+1](#)

- It also expanded educational opportunities with Colorado State University. [Daryo](#)
- At the national/institutional level, the foundation collaborates with Uzbek institutions (e.g. KIUT) to establish “2 + 2” joint programs and connect with foreign education groups. [kiut.uz+2diasporafordevelopment.eu+2](#)

## Recent & New Policies (2024–2025)

- **Reorganization & Presidential Oversight**

In May 2025, a presidential decree (Decree UP-77, 05.05.2025) transformed the foundation into the “**El-Yurt Umidi Foundation for the Training of Future-Oriented Specialists**” under the President of Uzbekistan, aiming for tighter alignment with national development.

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Under this, starting **1 September 2025**, the candidate pool for **targeted internships abroad** will primarily come from employees in ministries, agencies, and strategic enterprises. [UzDaily.uz+1](#)

The foundation will also coordinate with the Agency for Civil Service Development to determine host organizations and durations for internships, and provide relevant language training to interns. [UzDaily.uz+1](#)

- **Automatic Scholarships & Relaxed Competition in Certain Cases**

New rules introduced (2025) include:

- Candidates admitted to foreign universities ranked in the **top 100 globally** may receive **full scholarships automatically**, without competition. [talimtelekanali.uz+2https://yuz.uz+2](#)
- Candidates admitted to institutions in the **top 300 globally** may automatically receive support for travel and accommodation (even if not full tuition), again without additional competition. [talimtelekanali.uz+1](#)
- Graduates of **Presidential, creative, or specialized schools** admitted to bachelor’s programs in top 20 foreign universities (with  $\geq 50\%$  tuition scholarship) will also receive “El-Yurt Umidi” scholarships automatically. [talimtelekanali.uz+2https://yuz.uz+2](#)

- **Bright Talent Initiative & Employment Guarantees**

A new “Bright Talent” initiative is being launched under the foundation’s umbrella (per Presidential Decree PF-61, March 26, 2025). [TUIT+2O‘zbekiston Respublikasi Hukumat portali+2](#)

Under this, more emphasis will be placed on selecting gifted students from underprivileged families to offer them opportunities abroad. [TUIT+2O‘zbekiston Respublikasi Hukumat portali+2](#)

Also, those who studied abroad with foundation support may be **hired into state bodies/organizations without needing to compete** (i.e. with reduced or no competitive entry) upon return. [TUIT+2O‘zbekiston Respublikasi Hukumat portali+2](#)  
The foundation plans to allocate **300 billion Uzbek sums** to support the Bright Talent project currently. [Darakchi+1](#)

- **Policy to Reward High Achievers & Reduce Barriers**

The foundation is gradually lowering barriers for high achievers: e.g. waiving competitive exams for those admitted to top-ranked universities as noted above. [talimtelekanali.uz+2https://yuz.uz+2](#)

- **Scholar Internships & Practical Engagements**

In mid-2025, a group of El-Yurt Umidi scholars interned at IT Park Uzbekistan

(Nukus office) working in project management, attracting export-oriented IT companies, and developing local startup ideas. [ITPark](#)

- **Scholar Voices & Accountability**

In 2024, Kun.uz published interviews with foundation scholars studying in the U.S., U.K., Hong Kong, among others. They often speak of a sense of responsibility to the Uzbek people and hope to use their training for national development. [Kun.uz](#) Scholars are conscious that public funds invested in their education might have been used for physical infrastructure (schools, clinics), so they often feel heightened accountability to demonstrate impact. [Kun.uz](#)

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## Challenges, Criticisms & Observations

- **Sustainability & Brain Drain Risks**

Anytime a scholarship program sends large numbers abroad, there is risk that some scholars may not return or get absorbed into domestic systems. The reorganization in 2025 partly addresses this by strengthening return incentives and guaranteed employment mechanisms. [UzDaily.uz+2https://yuz.uz+2](#)

- **Alignment with National Needs**

Ensuring that scholars select fields aligned with Uzbekistan's development priorities (technology, public administration, energy, infrastructure) is crucial. The foundation and presidential decrees emphasize this goal. [UzDaily.uz+2https://yuz.uz+2](#)

- **Equitable Access**

Providing equal opportunity across regions (rural, less developed areas) may be challenging. The foundation tries to hold seminars in different regions to publicize competition. [Asian News from UK+2brightmindpublishing.com+2](#)

- **Administrative Capacity & Oversight**

With the 2025 reorganization, the foundation's accountability, monitoring, and capacity to coordinate internships, language training, and matching scholars to jobs will be tested.

- **Financial Burden & Budgeting**

The foundation's expansion (e.g. Bright Talent, automatic scholarships) implies large fiscal commitments. Ensuring efficiency and return on investment (i.e. that scholars contribute meaningfully) is critical.

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## Recent News Highlights (2023–2025)

- **Reorganization Under Presidential Administration (2025)**

In May 2025, through presidential decree, the foundation was reorganized as “El-Yurt Umidi Foundation for the Training of Future-Oriented Specialists” under the President's office. [UzDaily.uz+2https://yuz.uz+2](#)

The foundation will now coordinate targeted internships for government and strategic enterprise employees abroad, among other tasks. [UzDaily.uz+2https://yuz.uz+2](#)

- **Scholar Internships & Engagements**

- In mid-2025, El-Yurt Umidi scholars (from US, UK, etc.) interned at IT Park Uzbekistan, working on project management and local startup development efforts. [ITPark](#)
- Foundation and University of Sydney signed cooperation; scholarship holders get 20% tuition discount; support for supervisor matching was discussed. [Qalampir.uz+1](#)
- Expansion of cooperation with Colorado State University announced. [Daryo](#)
- In July 2024, scholars discussed accountability and their responsibilities in interviews with media (e.g. Kun.uz) [Kun.uz](#)
- **Competition Data**  
In 2024, **2,937** applicants registered to participate in the foundation's open scholarship competition (for bachelor's, master's, doctoral). Breakdown: 376 in doctoral, 904 in master's, 1,657 in bachelor's. [Qalampir.uz+1](#)  
As of May 2025, the foundation claims to have sent **2,225** scholars abroad since its founding. [Qalampir.uz+1](#)
- **Policy Updates on Scholarship Allocation**  
As part of new rules, some scholarship awards will be automatic (without competition) for candidates admitted to top-ranked foreign universities (top 100 and top 300). [talimtelekanali.uz+2https://yuz.uz+2](#)  
Also, the "Bright Talent" initiative will allocate **300 billion Uzbek sums** to support underprivileged young people. [Darakchi+1](#)
- **Graduate Employment Guarantees**  
Under new schemes, those educated abroad via the foundation may be directly placed in state bodies / public organizations **without additional competitive hiring**.