

Lankaran State University

It was founded as a branch of Baku State University by Resolution No. 319 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic dated September 25, 1991, and then an independent higher education institution was created on the basis of this branch by Decree No. 403 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic dated July 23, 1992. The first rector of the university was Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor Hajibaba Sadik oglu Azimov.

Despite the serious problems that arose in the first years of the existence of Lankaran State University in meeting numerous needs, in creating a material and technical base, educational buildings and other infrastructure, thanks to the efforts and organization of the university administration, as well as the dedicated work of the staff assembled at the university, the auditoriums of secondary schools No. 2 and 4 of the city of Lankaran, the agricultural technical school and technical school No. 169 were adapted to the needs of the university. A little later, the administrative building of the Lankaran Capacitor Plant, a 1.2-hectare educational and experimental site in the village of Sutamurdov, and many outbuildings were transferred to the management of Lankaran State University. As a result of this work, the first academic year at Lankaran State University began in November 1992.

In its early years, LSs classrooms trained specialists in the following fields: international relations, Asian studies, Russian language and literature, history and public administration, mathematics and computer science, chemistry and biology, economics and management, agriculture and agrarian industry, and others. The main goal was to attract academic and teaching staff to LSU, as well as highly qualified and renowned scientists. The arrival of a large number of renowned scholars to lecture in Lankaran in a very short time changed the situation for the better. Among the first to arrive were academician Ideal Narimanov, Professors Seyfaddin Gandilov, Aliyar Safarli, Seyfulla Asadullayev, Mammadali Huseynov, Mirza Rahimov, Sabir Khalilov, Gudrat Ismayilzade, Gamarshah Javadov, Rafiga Mustafayeva, Shovgu Goychayli, Alisa Shukurlu, Magsud Hajiyev, Rajab Aliyev, Magbet Mammadov, Rafiq Babayev, Nadir Mikayilov, associate professors Nariman Sabziyev, Gazanfar Rajabli, Mammadagha Mammadov, Vagif Ismayilov, Islam Valiyev and others, which allowed LSU to take more confident steps forward.

But the difficulties didn't end there. One of the challenges was improving social issues, housing, and living conditions for the large number of invited visiting scholars, as well as resolving their transportation issues. Through the dedicated efforts of the university administration and local faculty, these issues were gradually resolved, and the transfer of a building to the university—a guesthouse belonging to the Lankaran City Party Committee, located on the outskirts of the city, by the sea

and in a wooded area, this place solved the problem of temporary accommodation for the professors and lecturers who were invited from Baku.

One of the most important tasks facing the university was the creation of a university library. This required allocating space, organizing reading rooms and circulation rooms, and ensuring that the planned collection included textbooks, teaching aids, and other auxiliary literature, as well as daily newspapers. First and foremost, contacts were established with academic professors who worked closely with LSU. With their help, the university library quickly acquired the necessary literature. In 1995, the building, located in the city center and then known as the "House of Intellectuals," was transferred to the university's ownership. Following this, the LSU library moved to the city's most prestigious building and began to develop.

Associate Professor Elmira Abdullayeva was appointed the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, and Associate Professor Gazanfar Rajabli was appointed the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities.

In the 1992/1997 academic years, Lankaran State University was being trained higher education specialists in 17 specialties. At that time, 1320 students from 50 regions of our country were studying at LSU, including 22 Turkish citizens, who were studying in the following specialties: the history of Azerbaijan, the Azerbaijani language and literature, the teaching of mathematics, geography, biology, fruit growing and viticulture, forestry and horticulture, as well as fish production technology. The opening of new specialties at Lankaran State University: international relations, Russian language and literature (since the 1993/1994 academic year), oriental studies, accounting, control and analysis of economic activity (since the 1994/1995 academic year), pedagogy and methodology of primary education (since the 1994/1995 academic year), basic military and pre-conscription training of youth (since the 1995/1996 academic year), as well as music education and fine arts (since the 1997/1998 academic year) indicates that Lankaran State University is on the path of development and is moving step by step towards success.

By 1997, Lankaran State University had 142 research and teaching staff. Of these, 27 were professors with doctorates, and 60 were associate professors with candidate degrees. In those years, along with the above-mentioned scientists, famous scientists from various higher educational institutions of our country, such as professors Gavil Khavilov, Makhad Sofiyev, Ruhulla Orujov, Amirkhan Khalilov, Khalid Alimirzayev, Magbet Mamedov, Najaf Nazim Guliyev, Agayar Shukurov, Tarlan Novruzov, Azhdar Agayev, Ramiz Zehrabov, candidates of sciences, associate professors Islam Valiyev, Firuz Sadigli, Elmira Hasanova, Elmira Abdullayeva, Heydar Orujov, Maryam Shafiyeva, Sevda Kazimova, Mamedkhan Soltanov, Javanshir Guliyev came to Lankaran State University, gave lectures there and

actively participated in the cultural and social events of the university. The advice and expertise of this entire academic community has been invaluable in strengthening the first higher education institution operating in the southern region and increasing its success rates.

Thus, the proper organization of the educational process at LSU, the involvement of highly qualified scientists in scientific and pedagogical activities, as well as the implementation of consistent measures to ensure transparency and objectivity in the educational environment, very quickly gained LSU a reputation. By a decision of the Lankaran State University Scientific Council on February 19, 1993, research at the university was planned and launched in 14 areas and five main areas. The success of this work was facilitated by the work of local research and teaching staff on dissertations and the appointment of renowned scientists as their supervisors. In order to maintain interest in the scientific field, at a meeting of the LSU (Lankaran State University) Scientific Council on October 28, 1995, a decision was made to establish a specialized council at the university for awarding doctoral degrees in the history of the Motherland, the Azerbaijani language and literature. By the decision of the Higher Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in 1996, a specialized council for the defense of candidate of science degrees in the specialties of "History of the Motherland" and "Azerbaijani Literature" began to function at LSU.

In February 1994, the Student Scientific Society was established at Lankaran State University with the aim of increasing the interest of young people in science, training scientific and teaching staff with scientific degrees, and thus eliminating the need for specialists with scientific degrees by using local and young staff. S.S.S. (student scientific society)'s activities are constantly discussed in the Scientific Council. Since September 1997, LSU has switched to a two-tier system, teaching has begun at the bachelor's and master's levels, and for the first time admissions to postgraduate studies were held.

In 1997, the university began holding regular scientific conferences, seminars, and symposia. In April of that year, a scientific and practical conference for faculty members was held to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the founding of Lankaran State University. The conference featured interesting presentations and extensive discussions within the sections on linguistics and Azerbaijani literature, geography and ecology, physical and mathematical sciences, chemical, biological and agricultural sciences, pedagogy and psychology, military and physical training.

From October 1, 1996, a computer center equipped with modern equipment started operating at LDU. In February 1995, the 50th anniversary of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences was celebrated at Lankaran State University. In March of that year, the Presidium of ANAS (Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences), the Nasimi Institute of Linguistics of ANAS, and Lankaran State University jointly held

a scientific and practical conference on native language and education. The scientific and practical conference was attended by ANAS President Eldar Salayev, Academician Asaf Namazov, Academician Bekir Nabihev, Director of the Nasimi Institute of Linguistics Academician Agamusa Akhundov, as well as scholars from other scientific centers across the country.

In the first years of its activity, Lankaran State University paid serious attention to issues of scientific cooperation not only with higher educational institutions and research centers of the country, but also in the international arena.

By 1997, several local LSU researchers and educators had already defended their dissertations. All of these successes and more have given us confidence that LSU is operating on a solid foundation and will achieve continued success.

On July 23, 1997, by the decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, National Leader Heydar Aliyev, an experienced organizer of science and education, Doctor of Technical Sciences, Professor Mirzagha Eyyub oglu Bagirov, who worked for many years as the rector of the Azerbaijan Polytechnic Institute (now the Azerbaijan Technical University), was appointed a rector of Lankaran State University.

Professor Mirzagha Bagirov always remembered with great pleasure the advice given by President of the Republic Heydar Aliyev during his meeting with him when he was appointed the rector of LSU: "We must strive to transform Lankaran State University into both a leading scientific and educational institution and the main cultural center of the region." Between 1997 and 2005, LSU's growth rate was reflected in the increase in student enrollment compared to previous years and the opening of new specialization areas at the university. At that time, LSU already had four faculties: humanities, natural sciences, education, and economics, as well as 12 departments. Education was conducted in two stages, and specialists in 14 specialties were trained at the bachelor's level. From 1997 to 2003, the university graduated 1,755 students, 390 of whom were members of the Class of 2003. Of these graduates, 48 graduated from LSU with honors. Another important aspect that characterized the period 1997/2005 at LSU was the significant increase in the number of employees, especially research and teaching staff with academic degrees, as well as the fact that local employees defended their doctoral theses and worked at the university as PhD candidates. So that, while in previous years the number of academic staff coming to Lankaran State University from other higher education institutions and science centers was 70 percent, this rate decreased to 30 percent in the 2002/2003 academic year.

Since 1998, LSU has successfully managed the admissions process for postgraduate (doctoral) programs. The number of candidates defending their dissertations at a specialized council approved by the Academic Council of Lankaran

State University has increased, and the university's research activities have more expanded. At that time, 3 academicians and 19 professors participated in the preparation of master's students. In addition, LSU's international scientific relations had also expanded significantly. University scientists have given compelling scientific presentations at national and international scientific conferences organized jointly with LSU, and they publish their articles in prestigious journals.

The national and international scientific conferences held at Lankaran State University in 1997/2005 have become a continuous event. During this period, LSU hosted ambassadors from the United States and France; reciprocal meetings and academic relations were established with educators from the United States, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Federal Republic of Germany. In addition to the numerous institutes of the National Academy of Sciences, mutual scientific ties began to be established with Baku State University, the Azerbaijan University of Languages, as well as higher education and scientific centers in France, England and the USA, and this activity became increasingly widespread. In those years, the conference dedicated to the 80th anniversary of Baku State University, held at Lankaran State University, was a great success. The conference featured scientific papers by prominent scholars representing Baku State University and other higher education institutions in the republic.

In May 2002, a major event was held in the format of a scientific conference dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the birth of the rector, Professor Mirza Aga Bagirov. Among the guests of LSU at the event were the Chairman of the Academy of Sciences, Academician Azad Mirzajanzade, the Director of the Institute of Geography of the National Academy of Sciences, Academician Budag Budagov, Orkhan Mammadyarov, Professors Sudeyf Imamverdiyev, Adil Garibov, Azhdar Agayev, Rahim Shukurov, Orkhan Efendiayev, Mahir Babayev and others, who presented interesting scientific reports. Among the guests of LSU at the event were the Chairman of the Academy of Sciences, Academician Azad Mirzajanzadeh, the Director of the Institute of Geography of the National Academy of Sciences, Academician Budag Budagov, Orkhan Mammadyarov, Professors Sudeyf Imamverdiyev, Adil Garibov, Ajdar Aghayev, Rahim Shukurov, Orkhan Efendiev, Mahir Babayev and others, who presented interesting scientific reports. All these academic and scientific measures have created more opportunities for further improving the technical relations and level of technical education of LSU.

In 1999, a branch of the State Science and Technology Committee was established within Lankaran State University. Significant measures taken during that period included the transfer of the educational building of the defunct Lankaran Agricultural Technical School to Lankaran State University, the opening of a 50-bed student dormitory and a 100-bed dining hall to improve student living conditions, and the special emphasis placed on sports activities at LSU.

In 2000/2001, the Student Science Society, Student Youth, Student Unions, and Sports Club at LSU began their activities in accordance with the approved Regulations.

In November 2003, an international scientific conference was held on "Tea Cultivation and Development Problems in the Subtropical Regions of the Caspian Sea Coast." The conference, jointly organized by the Azerbaijan Tea Union, Gilan University of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Gilan Agricultural and Natural Resources Scientific Research Center, addressed the status and development problems of tea cultivation in the subtropical regions of the Caspian Sea coast, as well as the importance of scientific research in this field.

Academician Budag Budagov, the director of the Geographical Institute of ANAS, and academician Urkhan Alakbarov also attended the seminar held at LDU as part of the UNESCO program "Man and the Biosphere" (MAB) in April 2004. Many interesting proposals were put forward at the seminar, and the possibility of creating a biosphere reserve in the republic was also discussed. The seminar particularly emphasized the scientific and practical importance of the Hirkan National Park, established by a decree issued by the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, to protect and effectively utilize the world-famous Hirkan remnant forests. The reforms implemented at LSU, including the opening of new specialist groups and the increase in the quantity and quality of the local academic staff, demonstrated that the university will make significant innovations and further strengthen its personnel potential.

By the decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev dated April 7, 2005, the famous scientist, Doctor of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, Honored Scientist, Professor Asaf Dashdamir oghlu Iskandarov was appointed the Rector of Lankaran State University. Rector Professor Asaf Isgandarov's first steps were aimed at properly organizing the work of the faculties and departments at the university and solving their problems. To achieve these goals, Faculty Days were organized for the first time at LSU. Meetings held within the framework of this event revealed both successes and existing problems. It was decided that these problems would be examined, solutions found, and eliminated through discussions with the active participation of the teaching staff in each faculty. By the order of the Rector, a commission was established at LSU to conduct an internal audit. The commission's conclusions and findings defined new tasks and objectives.

Following a decision by the LSU Approval Committee, the Faculties of Humanities and Pedagogy were merged and began operating under the name Faculty of Humanities and Pedagogy. The educational building housing the Faculty of Pedagogy was renovated and converted into a student dormitory. During these years, LSU was accepted as a member of various international organizations such as the Association of Universities of the Caspian Coastal States, the Eurasian Universities

Association, and participated in prestigious programs such as INTAS and TEMPUS (European Union). Thus, between 2005 and 2016, LSU established an Electronic Education Network equipped with modern equipment, encompassing the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Humanities and Pedagogical Sciences, the Faculty of Economics and Management, the Graduate and Doctoral Studies Department, 11 departments, 1 research laboratory, and various centers, as part of a grant project under NATO's "Cooperation for Science and Peace" program.

By the Resolution of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated November 23, 2007 No. 46-11-7048/7, the Faculty of Advanced Training and Retraining was established at Lankaran State University. The main goal of the faculty, which operates in accordance with the Independent Charter, was to carry out advanced training and retraining of employees and other specialists in the education system. The faculty focused primarily on the professional development and retraining of staff in the region's secondary schools. Since 2010, the faculty has continued its activities under the name "Continuing Education."

In 2005/2016, LSU paid more attention to the training of teaching staff in mathematics and computer science, chemistry and biology, history and geography, the Azerbaijani language and literature, the English language and literature, computer science, translation, accounting and auditing, business management, economics, economics and management of the manufacturing and service sectors, ecology, and also initiated scientific research in various fields of science.

In the 2006/2016 academic year, the dynamics of student enrollment at Lankaran State University accelerated even more, and the number of students from various regions of the republic at LSU increased even more. During this period, the Department of Ecology and Tourism, as well as the Center for Specialization and Creativity in the Field of Growing Tea and Subtropical Plants, began operating at the university. Students studying tea, vegetable, subtropical, and ornamental plant cultivation have begun to apply their acquired theoretical knowledge in practice. The fact that students completed practical training in teaching enabled them to achieve successful results. Since the 2009/2010 academic year, the University has switched to a credit system in all specialties.

In 2007, the Active Learning Methods Cabinet was organized. Starting from 2008, new projects began to be implemented at LSU for better quality of education. In 2015, another initiative to improve the quality of education at the university was undertaken. To this end, a new concept for a corporate education system was developed and implemented.

Five new computer laboratories, which meet the standards of the education system, were equipped with modern equipment and built in accordance with modern requirements. The university's classrooms, including the Educational Information

Center, the Information Technology Management Center, and the Innovative Educational Technology rooms, were equipped with the latest modern technical equipment, and ongoing work was carried out on the Best Teacher project, and in 2015, the winner of the "Best Teacher" project has been announced.

By the decision of the Presidium of ANAS dated September 21, 2005, a branch of the ANAS Lankaran Regional Science Center was established under the LSU. LSU Rector, Professor Asaf Iskenderov, was appointed the first director of this scientific center. As one of the four scientific centers operating in our country, the Lankaran Regional Scientific Center of ANAS was operating in close cooperation with Lankaran State University, and joint scientific events were organized. On the eve of the 60th anniversary of the National Academy of Sciences, shortly after the adoption of the well-known decision of the Presidium of the Academy on the creation of the Lankaran regional educational program, it is worth noting the holding of a scientific and practical conference on October 4, 2005, at Lankaran State University on the topic "The tasks of science and education in the socio-economic development of regions" as one of the most important events that stimulated cooperation in this area.

On December 23-24, 2006, an international scientific and practical conference was held at Lankaran State University on the topic of "Heydar Aliyev's legacy and Ilham Aliyev's stage in the modern development of Azerbaijan." The conference was dedicated to the study, preservation, dissemination, and utilization of the legacy of national leader Heydar Aliyev; and to an analysis of the challenges and achievements facing President Ilham Aliyev, the architect of the modern revival of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the 21st century, thanks to his skillful, confident, and determined development of this legacy.

LSU also was continuously developing its work within the TEMPUS programme (European Union), which it joined in 1996, and in 2005-2015 expanded its cooperation with educational institutions in foreign countries. Thus, within the framework of the TEMPUS program, from July 18 to 30, 2011, a symposium of English language teachers from leading universities of the republic was held at Lankaran State University on the topic of "Reforms in the teaching of written and oral translation in Azerbaijan." The symposium was attended by more than 30 foreign language teachers from the University of Essex (England), Baku State University, Nakhchivan State University, Ganja State University and the Baku Teacher Training Institute.

The symposium discussed reforms in the teaching of written and interpreting translation in Azerbaijan, oral communication and pronunciation skills, the teaching of English, the role of the teacher in modern language classes, the use of vocabulary in interlingual communication, the development of communication skills in teachers, and other issues, as well as an exchange of experiences and analytical findings. Under a bilateral agreement, faculty from the University of Strasbourg in France

were granted the right to participate in first - to fourth-year examinations and thesis defenses at Lankaran State University. Between 2005 and 2015, LSU staff regularly participated in exchange programs and internships at various foreign universities. During this period, many LSU undergraduate students went on to pursue their studies at the University of Strasbourg in France, higher education institutions in the United States and the People's Republic of China, and some of them earned master's degrees from these institutions.

In 2012, LSU, together with the international organization TEMPUS, established direct links with Polish and Latvian universities within the framework of the project "Creating conditions for the effective use of information and communication technologies in higher education institutions." A group of LSU faculty participated in training sessions held at these universities. As a result of these training sessions, a computer lab equipped with modern computers, printers, projectors, laptops, and other electronic equipment was created at LSU through a grant project.

Over the years, LSU has collaborated with universities in Poland, Macedonia, and Austria, as well as with a number of higher education institutions in our country, within the framework of the project "Laying the Foundation for the Integration of People with Disabilities into Higher Education Institutions in Azerbaijan." LSU has also listened to reports from LSU staff who have completed training at foreign universities, and it created an opportunities for the dissemination of best practices.

In 2012, as part of the Erasmus Mundus project, relationships were established with higher education institutions in Romania, Ukraine, Georgia and Italy. This resulted in LSU gaining international experience, accelerating the development of new perspectives in education, and integrating LSU into the global education system as a whole. In the 2005/2015 academic years, special attention was paid to teaching the fundamentals of foreign languages, information technology, economics, law, and socio-political knowledge at the university. To this end, the university opened the Centers for French Language and Literature and German Language and Literature.

In 2013, Lankaran State University became the first Azerbaijani university to join the Mevlana Exchange Program announced by the Turkish government. During 2005/2016, 7 International, 6 Republican scientific and practical conferences, numerous seminars and symposia were held at Lankaran State University.

On May 27, 2016, Deputy Director of the Department of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, renowned mathematician, Doctor of Mathematical Sciences, Professor Natig Sahrab oghlu Ibrahimov was appointed Acting Rector of Lankaran State University by the decree of the Minister of Education Mikayil Jabbarov, and in April 2021, by the decree of the President of the Republic Ilham Aliyev, he was appointed the Rector of Lankaran State University.

The main goals of the new leadership were to preserve and build on LSU's achievements to date, create a healthy, transparent, and objective educational environment, decisively address negative situations, conduct specialized training in accordance with national and international standards, maintain labor discipline, evaluate the performance and work of each employee, strengthen the potential of the academic and teaching staff, develop new specialties tailored to the region's specific needs, more actively engage undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students in research projects, create a cutting-edge model of higher education in Lankaran and more. Professor Natig Ibrahimov decided to begin by addressing the most pressing challenges, including fundamental changes in human resources, monitoring and improving the quality of the educational process and above all, improving infrastructure, material and technical resources.

Lankaran State University welcomed the 2016/2017 academic year in a completely new quality. Lankaran State University's Building 2 has been completely renovated and is now accessible to students and faculty in a completely different way than before.

On September 15, 2016, Deputy Minister of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov attended the opening ceremony of the renovated Academic Building No. 2 at the university. He congratulated the faculty and students on Knowledge Day, emphasizing the successful implementation of the national education development strategy in our country and the increased attention to science and education under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev. He outlined the most important challenges facing LSU and wished continued success to the university staff as they celebrated 25 years of impeccable service.

One of Professor Natig Ibragimov's first decisions was to make changes to the university's structure, creating new divisions, departments, and centers, more optimally reorganizing faculties and departments, and preparing an activity program for each structural unit.

Subsequently, the tutoring service was completely reorganized. A specialist from the capital was invited, the necessary working conditions were created for him, and approximately 30 graduates, primarily from the university itself, were enrolled in tutoring courses.

Achieving global goals in a region facing a shortage of qualified specialists seemed impossible at first glance. University electronics was considered one of the most optimal solutions to overcome this situation. Thus, the "Electronic University" project was launched. As part of this project, the university's ICT sector was modernized. First of all, the Information, Communications, and Library Center created as an electronic database of students, faculty, and subjects taught. Using these databases, an electronic journal and electronic class schedule were created.

Each student's academic activity and progress were recorded in their personal account. As a result, the educational process was virtually automated. Currently, for the first time in the republic, a Lankaran State University student independently determines the day and time of the exam and colloquium. During the exam, the computer generates and issues an exam ticket to the student, randomly selecting questions pre-loaded into the database. The Information, Communications, and Library Center successfully implements the electronics not only of the educational process, but also of a number of important and complex processes in finance, accounting, research, and economic activity. Today, serious steps have been taken in the direction of the digitization of the university scientific library.

All this led to the improvement of the quality of teaching at the university, the organization of internships in accordance with modern requirements, the establishment of closer ties with graduates, the organization of their future careers and the provision of efficiency in the management structure.

Currently, in order to improve the quality of personnel training, LSU has new classrooms that meet modern requirements (classes of computer science, geography and history, language room), modern laboratories (teaching laboratories of chemistry and biology, teaching laboratory of physics, veterinary laboratory, laboratory of veterinary surgery, laboratory of food technologies, laboratory of food safety and ecology), as well as a veterinary clinic equipped with the most modern equipment.

A 2.5-hectare field designed for the training of agricultural students at the university has been planted with a large number of citrus fruits (tea, various vegetables, and melons), and two new greenhouses have been built for students studying plant protection and agronomy, which are available for students to use for practical training.

The guest house building, which is owned by the university, was completely renovated and converted into a 35-bed hotel for students studying in the fields of Tourism and Hotel Management and Food Engineering to undertake internships.

To ensure the mobility of the LSU teaching staff, for the first time in the Republic, 18 service apartments were provided (7 apartments with 1 room, 8 apartments with 2 rooms, 3 apartments with 3 rooms) along with the necessary equipment for use by scientists and teachers invited from other places.

Since 2016, the university's student population and the number of admitted students have steadily increased. Thus, while in the 2016/2017 academic year the student quota was 2,588, and the number of admitted students was 745, in the 2025/2026 academic year it was already 6,700, and the number of admitted students was 2,323.

The university became the first higher education institution in the Republic to participate in the "Pilot Project for Cooperation between Public and Higher Education Institutions." As part of the project, university faculty conducted master classes to improve the qualifications of secondary school teachers in the districts of Lankaran, Astara, and Yardimli.

The university annually holds Olympiads for students from the regional secondary schools in physics, mathematics, chemistry, biology, and computer science.

Since 2017, LSU has traditionally held an Open House and Graduate Career Fair. On Open Day, representatives of the regional community, high school students and their parents get to know the university. Private and public educational institutions in the region are invited to participate in graduate job fairs, and over 1,000 graduates have already found employment at the fairs.

In recent years, a lot of work has been done to strengthen the material and technical base of the university. Thus, in 2016, the five-story building was renovated and brought into a condition suitable for training. In 2018, a student canteen for 100 people was built and put into operation on the territory of the university educational building No. 2. In addition, in 2019, a new 4-story academic building was constructed adjacent to Academic Building No.1. of the university, and simultaneously, new Academic Building No. 3 and a modern dormitory for 160 students were built and commissioned. A sports field with artificial turf was created in the building's courtyard. In 2021, the University's Scientific Library complex underwent a major renovation. A reading room for 100 students, a conference room for 300, and an electronic library room were created, all meeting modern requirements. Recently, a lot of work has been done to replenish the library collection, and an electronic library system has been put into operation. In 2022, a new five-story academic building was constructed in the courtyard of the university's Academic Building No. 2, another five-story building was renovated, and a new dormitory for 260 students was opened. All newly constructed and renovated buildings were equipped with the necessary new equipment and furniture.

The university has also achieved significant success in the field of scientific research at the national and international levels. For the first time, access to highly ranked, world-class scientific journals was created, hundreds of scientific papers were published in Scopus, Web of Science, and other indexed international databases, and the university's researchers received even greater recognition on the international stage. More than 50 scientific conferences of republican and international status were held, thousands of dissertations were published, and scientists from America, Great Britain, Europe, China, Turkey, the CIS countries and other countries took part in the work of the conferences.

A new scientific journal (International Scientific and Practical Journal of Technical and Agricultural Sciences) was allocated for priority areas, all scientific journals (series "Scientific News - Mathematics and Natural Sciences", "Scientific News - Humanities") were reorganized, an electronic web database was created for them for the first time, DOI/ISSN identification numbers were received, and the journals were included in the list of periodical scientific publications recognized by the Higher Attestation Commission, and in international index databases such as AGRIS, Index Copernicus, ERIH PLUS, E-Library (RINTS), Scientific Indexing Services (SIS), CROSSREF, OPENALEX, ROAD, SUDOC, COSMOS, etc.

As part of the university's research training program, approximately 70 places were filled in the doctoral program, approximately 20 places were allocated for doctoral studies at other prestigious higher education institutions in the Republic (BSU, UNEC, ASPU, etc.), and doctoral students were sent to scientific organizations in the Republic and abroad to conduct research. The Higher Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan awarded the title of Doctor of Philosophy to approximately 30 employees of the university, the title of associate professor to approximately 20 employees, and the title of professor to more than 5 employees.

The university faculty has completed approximately 1,000 research projects in various fields of science, and approximately 500 research and methodological papers have received publication rights (in print). Approximately 1,000 master's theses in various specialties have been successfully defended, the structure of the Student Scientific Society (SSS) for undergraduate students has been reorganized, and student members of the SSS participate in scientific seminars, conferences, and research.

In recent years, LSU has been cooperating with prestigious universities in the Republic of Turkey (Marmara University, Istanbul University, Ankara University, Ege University, Gazi University, Afyon Kocatepe University, Kastamonu University, Zonguldak Bülent Ecevit University, Ondokuz Mayıs University, Adiyaman University, Cappadocia University, Sinop University, Kafkas University (Turkey)), as well as with a number of prestigious higher education institutions in European countries, including Ukraine (Kharkiv National University of Radio Electronics), the Czech Republic (Mendel University), Spain (University of Leon), Poland (University of Warmia and Mazury, University of Rzeszow), Hungary (Kaposvár University, University of Debrecen), Romania (University of Galați), Moldova (Moldova State University) and Central Asian countries, including Kazakhstan (Korkyt University of Kyzylorda, Turan University, Atyrau State University named after H. Dosmukhamedov, East Kazakhstan Technical University named after D. Serikbayev, Uzbekistan (Dashkant Institute of Finance and Technology (TIFT), Samarkand State University, Navoi State University, Andijan

State Institute of Foreign Languages, Bukhara State University) and Kyrgyzstan (Kyrgyz Economic University, Kyrgyz National Agrarian University) signed agreements on mutual recognition, dual diplomas, exchange and bilateral cooperation. The university faculty has completed approximately 1,000 research projects in various fields of science, and approximately 500 research and methodological papers have received publication rights (in print). Approximately 1,000 master's theses in various specialties have been successfully defended, the structure of the Student Scientific Society (SSS) for undergraduate students has been reorganized, and student members of the SSS participate in scientific seminars, conferences, and research.

Cooperation is carried out with the Azerbaijan State University of Economics (ASEU) in the field of personnel training and dual degree programs, as well as with Baku State University, Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University, Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University, Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts, Azerbaijan Technological University, Sumgait State University and Mingachevir State University in the field of personnel training.

The University cooperates with the institutions of the Ministry of Science and Education and the National Academy of Sciences for the purpose of proper organization of scientific research and training of scientific personnel, and also actively participates in the joint organization and holding of various scientific events.

In recent years, the university has presented projects to international and local organizations and collaborated closely with them. Also, LSU has hosted international conferences and symposia jointly organized by the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, the Institute for Economic Development and Social Research of the Republic of Turkey (İKSAD), Necmettin Erbakan University in Konya, ASOIU, ADPU, the ANAS Institute of History, and others. Many of the university's faculty and students have participated in exchange programs at Turkish universities.

In 2022, a series of anniversary events dedicated to the 30th anniversary of Lankaran State University was held in the region and Lankaran district, the final event took place at the Heydar Aliyev Center in the city of Lankaran. The event was attended by the Minister of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan Emin Amrullayev, rectors of higher education institutions operating in the Republic, the head of the executive power of the city of Lankaran and invited guests. During the event, the decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, signed on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Lankaran State University, was read, and LSU employees were awarded for their merits in the development of Azerbaijani education.

In 2025, the university also achieved a number of significant achievements in international cooperation. For example, Lankaran State University was included in the Times Higher Education World Rankings, one of the most prestigious systems for evaluating higher education institutions worldwide, and ranked among the top 1001-1500. In the same year, LSU's activities received 3 stars in the "QS Stars" audit conducted by "QS Quacquarelli Symonds", one of the most prestigious rating agencies in the world. Furthermore, Lankaran State University has been included for the first time in one of the most prestigious global rankings, the GreenMetric Ranking 2025. Lankaran State University is ranked 1616th in the global ranking of higher education institutions. The university consistently places special emphasis on fostering a spirit of patriotism among students. To this end, LSU regularly hosts conferences, roundtables, and other events on patriotism with student participation.

Events, scientific sessions, symposia and conferences are traditionally held at the university devoted to the invaluable merits of the National leader Heydar Aliyev in strengthening the state, developing science and education, caring for the young generation, life and activities; meetings of students with prominent figures of science, education, public and political life are organized; excursions to historical places strengthen love for country, land and work even more. Every year on May 28 — on the Day of the Republic — events under the motto "Azerbaijan - my homeland!" have become a tradition, in the framework of which university employees attend the performances of the Lankaran State Drama Theater **named after** N.B. Vazirov.

The project "Let's all plant a tree!", developed on the personal initiative of Mehriban Aliyeva, President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO and ISESCO, Member of the Milli Majlis, was welcomed by the University staff. Joining this ambitious patriotic initiative, university faculty and students head to the park twice a week in the spring and fall to carry out landscaping, greening, and cleaning work around the academic and administrative buildings. The Demiragachi Park is located in the 1st academic building of the university. To care for the landscaping, special teams consisting of students of agricultural specialties have been organized. Student life at the university is not limited to education only. Young people are represented in organizations such as the Student Scientific Society, the Student Youth Organization, the Student Union, the Student Creativity Center, and the Sports Club.

In recent years, Lankaran State University students have taken part in various scientific, technical and sports competitions organized throughout the republic, and took worthy places, receiving many cups and diplomas.

Ideological and political work at the University is carried out in accordance with the specific objectives defined by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Education.

Constant attention is paid to enhancing the social status of Lankaran State University employees. In recent years, employees have received regular salary increases, financial assistance on the eve of important national holidays, and various incentives for those who have distinguished themselves in teaching and community service.

Important work has also been done to attract teaching staff to the university. Thus, for the first time among the higher educational institutions of the republic, the Lankaran State University provides invited specialists from outside with social apartments built on the territory of the university.

In these one-, two- and three-room apartments with all amenities, invited specialists have the opportunity to live with their families. In recent years, at the end of each academic year, which has become a tradition, mass trips are organized with the participation of all University employees to various sights and recreation centers of the region. The families of our graduates and students who died in the Patriotic War, in which Azerbaijan won, are always in the center of attention of the university. The memory of our martyrs is always commemorated with pride, and their families are provided with financial and moral support.

Along with all this, the effective organization of leisure time for our students is also a priority. At the beginning of each academic year, "Knowledge Day" is celebrated with a ceremony, and valuable gifts are presented to students who have entered our university with high scores. LSU hosts state events and national holidays with great enthusiasm and solemnity, organizes various intellectual games among student teams, and also provides the opportunity to participate in a number of such games at the national level. In the field of sports, our students have also achieved success in various disciplines and won awards at international competitions in many sports. Our student teams also participate in sporting events held as part of inter-university competitions. The university administration strongly encourages students who excel in all these activities and social life in general.

Students, graduates, and staff of the university actively participated in the Second Karabakh War to liberate our lands from occupation, and 11 people lost their lives along the way. A memorial monument to our fallen students and graduates has been erected in the courtyard of the 1st Academic Building of Leningrad State University.

In 2020, the Social-Agrarian-Technological College, operating in the city of Lankaran, was transferred to the management of the university, as a result of which the quality of teaching in the college increased, internal discipline was strengthened and a new management structure was formed.

