

My Summer Expedition to Uzbekistan

This summer, I had the incredible opportunity to travel to Uzbekistan for four weeks, supported by the Expeditions Fund. As a student of Russian and Arabic, I immersed myself in the region's linguistic and cultural diversity, which proved to be both academically and personally enriching.

I attended a Russian language school in Tashkent, where intensive lessons and daily interactions helped me improve my fluency and confidence. Russian is widely spoken as a second language in Uzbekistan, offering me constant opportunities to apply what I learned, far beyond what I could achieve in a classroom setting. Additionally, my knowledge of Farsi, another commonly spoken language in informal settings, allowed me to connect with people in a unique way, bridging cultures and deepening my understanding of Uzbekistan's linguistic landscape.

Beyond language learning, I engaged with the local culture through memorable experiences. A highlight was participating in the Samarkand Triathlon, which was both a physical challenge and a chance to appreciate the city's breathtaking scenery alongside athletes from diverse backgrounds. I also attended the Uzbekistan vs. North Korea football match, where the electrifying atmosphere and passionate fans offered a glimpse into the cultural pride of the Uzbek people.

I explored the stunning historical landmarks of Khiva and Bukhara, from Khiva's ancient walls to Bukhara's bustling bazaars and centuries-old mosques, each offering insights into the region's rich Silk Road heritage.

This transformative experience, made possible by the Fund, enhanced my academic growth and broadened my cultural perspective. I highly recommend the Expeditions Fund to other students.

