



ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

Women in the STEM field: Central Asia

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EWIC Staff: Datasheet

- ❖ In Central Asia, about half of the researchers in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) field are women.¹
- ❖ In 2014, the UN Commission on the Status of Women stated that women show relatively low interest in pursuing studies in computer science, with large gaps among countries, ranging from 21 percent in North America and Western Europe to 39 percent in Central Asia.²
- ❖ According to UNESCO's Institute for Statistics, approximately 50% of the researchers in science and technology are female in Kazakhstan.³
- ❖ Based on data from a 2010 UNESCO study, around 52% of women are among college science graduates in Uzbekistan.⁴
- ❖ TechWomen, a U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs initiative that 'empowers, connects, and supports' women in STEM fields, welcomed 21 Emerging Leaders (ELs) from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to the 2015 program that is comprised of 99 women from 19 countries.
- ❖ The NeXXt Scholars Program offers female students from countries with Muslim-majority populations and college-selected American young women interested in studying in the STEM field the opportunity to pursue undergraduate degree programs at women's colleges in the U.S.⁵
- ❖ On February 15, 2015, a group of female STEM professionals from Kyrgyzstan visited the Renaissance Computing Institute, on the University of North Carolina (UNC) at North Chapel Hill campus, to participate in UNC Global's Open World Forum in order to learn about new information technologies for teaching and research and attract more women to the STEM field.⁶
- ❖ According to a 2014 U.S. News and World Report that was published in February, women in the U.S. make up 28 percent of science and engineering researchers in 2010⁷; on the other hand, in Central Asia, over half of researchers in the STEM field in are women, based on data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics.⁸

¹ <http://www.akilah.net/news-trends/lucrative-stem-jobs-arent-just-for-men-how-women-can-get-in-too/>

² http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/58/csw58_issues_paper_review_theme_14_feb_2014_fin_al%20pdf.ashx

³ <http://www.unescobkk.org/education/news/article/10-facts-about-girls-and-women-in-stem-in-asia/>

⁴ <http://contexts.org/articles/what-gender-is-science/>

⁵ <http://www.educationusa.info/HEI/docs/For%20Students%20and%20Advisers%20-%20NeXXt%20Scholars%20Program%20Guide%20with%20Indiv%20Pages%201.0.pdf>

⁶ <http://global.unc.edu/news/finding-common-ground-in-the-social-computing-room/>

⁷ <http://www.usnews.com/news/stem-solutions/articles/2014/02/06/minorities-women-still-underrepresented-in-stem-fields-study-finds>

⁸ <http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2013/10/a-map-of-the-gender-gap-in-science-around-the-globe/280407/>