

SAULE MOLDABEKOVA ROBB, Ed.D., D.Phil. (Honoris Causa)

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Seasoned academic leader with 40 years of international experience in Russian language instruction, academic leadership, and program administration. Proven track record of success delivering engaging, student-centered Russian language and culture courses from beginner to advanced levels. Highly skilled in research, curriculum development, and student mentorship. Recognized for significant contributions to global language education, with deep cross-cultural expertise across the U.S., Russia, and Central Asia. Adept at building lasting relationships, partnerships, and key alliances for long-term success and synergy. Possess exceptional leadership skills, strong organizational aptitude, and meticulous attention to detail.

EDUCATION

Professional Development Program, Division of Library and Information Science | August 1994 – May 1995

Full Academic Fellowship (Freedom Support Act Fellow) | St. John's University – Jamaica, NY, USA

Qualification Diploma: Docent of Pedagogical Science | April 1994

Supreme Certifying Commission, Council of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Diploma. Kandidat Nauk (Ph.D., USA equivalent) | September 1990

The Supreme Certifying Commission of the Cabinet of Ministers of the USSR, Moscow, Russia

Dissertation: *"The Promotion of Translated Literature as a Factor of International Education in Children's Libraries of Kazakhstan*

Integrated Master's and Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Education | November 1985 – November 1989

Leningrad State University of Arts and Culture – Leningrad (now St. Petersburg), Russia, U.S.S.R.

Bachelor of Arts in Education (Emphasis in English Instruction) | September 1971 – June 1975

Pedagogical Institute of Foreign Languages – Almaty, Kazakhstan, U.S.S.R.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ASSOCIATE TEACHING PROFESSOR IN RUSSIAN | September 2022- Present

School of International Letters and Cultures, Arizona State University

- Design and deliver undergraduate and graduate courses on Russian language, literature, and cultures.
- Develop curriculum and instructional materials that align with the University's teaching and learning objectives.
- Serve as a member of **"Barrett Honors Faculty"**, collaborating with Barrett students on research, creative projects, and unique programming that connects Barrett to global communities.
- Serve as the **"faculty affiliate"** with the Melikian Center, which focuses on research, teaching, and public programs related to Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies.

SENIOR LECTURER IN RUSSIAN | August 2016-September 2022

School of International Letters and Cultures, Arizona State University

- Taught Russian language courses, including literature and culture, to undergraduate and graduate students.
- Contributed to developing the Russian Studies program curriculum, developing new courses, and integrating language-learning technology.

- Assessed and evaluated student performance through exams and assignments, as well as provided academic advising, and supervised students' research and thesis.
- Participated in Russian studies events and activities, engaged in scholarly research, published in academic journals, and presented at conferences.

RESIDENT DIRECTOR

CLI Russian Program in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan | June 2022 - August 2023

CLI Russian Program in St. Petersburg, Russia | June 2016 - August 2019

- Performed 480 hours of community service for 60 days at the CLI Russian Program in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and St. Petersburg, Russia.
- Oversaw the implementation of the program and ensured all program goals were achieved.
- Managed housing issues, enforced program policies, and promoted cross-cultural engagement.
- Served as a liaison between program participants and instructors, facilitating effective communication.
- Monitored participants' safety and well-being and responded promptly to emergencies and health issues.

CONSULTANT | September 2016- December 2017

Corporate Sustainability Leadership Education Program in Russia, IREX, Washington, D.C

- Advised on program content, planning, and monitoring to ensure alignment with program goals.
- Built relationships with partners, including academic, corporate, and non-profit entities in Russia.
- Contributed as a writer, reviewer, and editor to the Corporate Sustainability Education Program.

LECTURER IN RUSSIAN LANGUAGE | August 2011- August 2016

School of International Letters and Cultures, Barrett Honors Faculty, Arizona State University

- Taught Russian language and culture courses from beginner to advanced levels.
- Developed lesson plans, syllabi, and course materials, as well as engaged in research and scholarly activities related to the Russian language.
- Assessed student progress through exams, assignments, and other methods, and provided guidance on their academic progress.

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF RUSSIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE | January 2008 --May 2011

Thunderbird School of Global Management. Department of Modern Languages

- Taught Russian language and culture courses at various levels and contributed to the development and improvement of the Russian language curriculum.
- Evaluated student progress through various assessment methods and provided constructive feedback.
- Engaged in research and scholarly activities related to the Russian language, literature, or culture.

FACULTY ASSOCIATE IN RUSSIAN LANGUAGE | August 2007--May 2011

Department of Languages and Literatures, Arizona State University

- Developed lesson plans and taught Russian language courses to undergraduate students.
- Provided guidance and support to students, including academic advising and mentorship.
- Participated in curriculum development, departmental meetings, and contributed to research activities.

CONSULTANT | 2008-2009

Institute of International Education, New York, USA

- Provided logistical support for ASU's Melikian Center for Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies in implementing the "Global Officer" (GO) project in the Republic of Tajikistan.
- Facilitated language training for ROTC cadets under the "Project GO" in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
- Provided logistical support for Exxon Mobil Russia Scholarship Program.

PROGRAM OFFICER, KAZAKHSTAN SPECIAL PROJECTS | November 2006- November 2007

American Councils for International Education, Washington, D.C.

- Oversaw the successful implementation of various programs across Kazakhstan.
- Coordinated with program stakeholders, including internal teams, government agencies, and other relevant organizations to ensure program objectives were met.
- Tracked program progress, identified areas for improvement, and prepared reports, presentations, and other materials for stakeholders and partners.

HEAD OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE | SAT PROGRAM TEST CENTER SUPERVISOR | DEPUTY DIRECTOR (EXCHANGE PROGRAMS AND TESTING) | July 1996 -October 2006

American Councils for International Education (ACCELS), Almaty, Kazakhstan.

- Held and progressed through roles, including Deputy Director, SAT Test Center Supervisor, and Head of the Representative Office.
- Managed daily operations of Kazakhstan's largest international student exchange organization and coordinated State Department-USIA educational and study abroad programs.
- Served as the primary liaison between the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan and ACCELS.
- Administered the Bolashak Presidential Program sponsored by the Government of Kazakhstan.
- Coordinated TOEFL, GRE, GMAT, and SAT tests.

OFFICE MANAGER | October 1995-July 1996

American Councils for International Education (ACCELS), Almaty, Kazakhstan

- Assisted with the administration of ACCELS education programs.
- Managed logistics, including travel arrangements and visa support, for visiting interview and orientation teams.
- Assisted program coordinators and staff with various administrative tasks, as well as managed office supplies and inventories.

INTERN | May 1995 - August 1995

Division of Library and Information Science, St. John's University, Jamaica, New York

- Conducted a comprehensive assessment of the adequacy of the Division's Children's Book Collection and determination of needs.
- Supported patrons with research inquiries, readers' advisory, and use of library resources.
- Assisted with tasks like cataloguing, processing new materials, weeding out outdated items, and maintaining physical and digital collections.

PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN | September 1977- October 1995

Department of Languages and Literature, Pedagogical Institute of Culture, Shymkent, Kazakhstan

- Delivered comprehensive instruction in English and Russian languages from basic to advanced levels.
- Taught additional courses on the literature of the peoples of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).
- Participated in scientific conferences, published articles, and conducted research.

COURSES TAUGHT (Last 3 years)

- **Spring 2024:** RUS 211, RUS 311, RUS 411, and RUS 440
- **Fall 2024:** RUS 212, RUS 312, RUS 412, and RUS 394
- **Spring 2023:** RUS 212, RUS 312, RUS 412, and RUS 102,
- **Fall 2023:** RUS 211, RUS 311, RUS 411, and RUS 440
- **Spring 2022:** RUS 212, RUS 312, RUS 412, and RUS 102
- **Fall 2022:** RUS 211, RUS 311, RUS 411, and RUS 440

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

- RUS 495 Russian for Heritage Speakers | **2014**
- RUS 494/440 Russian Mass Media | **2012**

PUBLICATIONS

- Twenty-Seven Russian publications distributed in Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan
- Two English publications in Norway
Detailed list and/or descriptions furnished upon request
- Member of the Editorial Board of the Collection of Articles “Science and Education for Industrial Production”
NSTU, Nizhny Novgorod, Russia 2014 | **February 2014**
- Deputy Editor of the Journal of Eurasian Research | **December 2001**
- (ISSN 1538-0378) Sponsored by ACCELS | **December 2006**
The Journal of Eurasian Research is an international, referred journal dedicated to the promotion of advanced research of intellectual life in the humanities and social sciences in Eurasia

HONORS/AWARDS

2025 Outstanding Teaching Award- School of International Letters and Cultures, Arizona State University

2024 Co-recipient of a \$2,000 external grant from the Russian Independent Media Archive (RIMA), alongside Dr. Olenina and Dr. Soyan

2023 15 Years of Service Recognition -- School of International Letters and Cultures, Arizona State University

2022 Outstanding Service Award, Individual --School of International Letters and Cultures, Arizona State University

2018 Nominated for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Distinguished Teaching Award, Arizona State University

2016 Nominated for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Distinguished Teaching Award, Arizona State University

2015 Nominated for “Lecturer of the Year,” School of International Letters and Cultures, Arizona State University

2014 Nominated for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Distinguished Teaching Award, Arizona State University

2013 Most Inspirational Faculty Award, awarded by the Office of Student-Athlete Development, Arizona State University

2012 Nominated for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Distinguished Teaching Award, Arizona State University

2008 National Slavic Honor Society in the U.S. “DOBRO CNOBO”. Awarded a Permanent Membership and Gold medal and certificate signed by Epsilon chapter advisor and National Executive Director S. C. Couch

2006 ACCELS “Presidential “World of Difference” Award (Best Representative in the Central Asia Region)

2001 Honorary Doctor of Philology (D. Phil., Honoris Causa), Miras University, Shymkent, Republic of Kazakhstan

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2025 Guest-speaker at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey. I presented "Achieving Excellence- How Awards and Scholarships Propel ASU Russian Students Success"

2024 Successfully completed Project GO applications review training

2024 Reviewed 35 Project GO applications

2024 Member of Project GO Selection Committee

2024 Advisor of Mia Osmonbekova, a recipient of the Melikian Center Undergraduate Fellowship "Influence of Russian Propaganda on Mass Media in Kyrgyzstan"

2024 Participated in the Pre-Departure for Resident Directors of CLI Russian Program in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan where I shared my experience as a Resident Director of this Program in the past

2024 Participated in Feedback Call with the Language Flagship Institute of International Education, Washington, D.C. : ASU Russian Flagship Proposal

2024 Attended the presentation "Designing a Custom Chat GPT for Russian "Language Classes" by Dr. Meier, University of New Mexico

2023 Evaluated FLAS applications for 2023-2024

2023 Conducted Russian placement tests for incoming students

2023 Attended "Trip Leader Briefing" conducted by Texas A&M University

2023 Panelist of Fulbright South and Central Asia Pre-Departure Orientation. Presented " Overview of Languages and Cultures of Central Asia and Kazakhstan"

2023 Participated in the meetings with Joshua Yaffa (New York), the author of the book *A Year of War: A Reporter View of Russia's Invasion of Ukraine*

2023 Took part in 2 seminars with Joshua Yaffa : "Causes of War, the Invasion and the Aftermath" and "A Long War and Its Implications for Ukraine, Russia, and the West"

2023 Organized both a regular virtual and in person seminars on "Career Opportunities for Russian Language Scholars" and "Get Ready to Change the World", conducted by speakers from the Graduate Initiative in Russian Studies at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies (MIIS)

2023 Organized a presentation of MIIS for ASU's Russian, Spanish, and Arabic faculty and students, entitled "How Language Can Launch Your International Career"

2022 Participated in the conference on Pamir Kyrgyz. Talked about language policies in Central Asia and Kazakhstan, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

2022 Member of the Selection Committee on "Media Literacy in the Baltics 2022" (IREX, Washington D.C.)

2022 Member of the FLAS Selection Committee

2021 Member of Title VIII Selection Committee

2021 Interviewed by Miles Green, reporter of the Cronkite News/Arizona PBS on the issues of "Freedom of Press in Russia"

2021 Independent Media in Russia and Belarus: The Ways to Exist Despite Control. The talk by Dr. Turkova, Voice of America Broadcast Journalist

2021 Naturalism of Freedom from Overview of the Kazakh Customary Tradition. The talk by Dr. Shangirbayeva, Fulbright scholar from Kazakhstan

2020 Member of Title VIII Selection Committee

2020 Member of the Selection Committee on "Media Literacy in the Baltics 2020" (IREX, Washington D.C.)

2019 Participated in the U.S. Russia Experts Summit organized by IREX in Washington D.C.

2019 Member of the Title VIII Selection Committee

2019 Discussion and meeting on Nonproliferation and Terrorism Studies Program with the representatives from Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, CA

2019 Member of the Search Committee for a Resident Director for CLI Russian Program in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

2019 Provided pre-departure briefings on Kazakh and Russian languages and cultures, to the 1st Battalion 158° Infantry Regiment of the Arizona National Guard before the Steppe Eagle exercise in summer 2019

2018 Member of the Selection Committee of the U.S. Russia Expert Program (IREX, Washington, D.C.)

2018 Study Abroad Office Orientation for Resident Directors of Summer Abroad Programs

2017 Served as a consultant of IREX, Washington D.C., contributing as writer, reviewer and editor to the Corporate Sustainability Education program for Russian universities

2017 Primary Supervisor for Russian Fulbright Teaching Assistant, Dmitrii Zabelin.

2016- As a Resident Director of CLI Russian Program observed Russian classes at Derzhavin Institute of Languages and Cultures, St. Petersburg, Russia

2016 Served as Panelist at the First Annual Exploring Communist Panel. Global Business Association and Global Council of Diplomats. March CLAS DemoFest 2016. Hosted by CIAS/ASU

2015 Successfully completed the STARTALK summer program: Heritage Language Teacher Workshop held at UCLA

2014 Attended the guest-lecture of Thomas Garza, Texas Language Center “What the Flagship Program Can Offer National Language Curricula”

2014 Published 3 articles in “Science and Education for Industrial Production” and “Innovative Technologies of Modern Educational Process” at the Nizhegorod State Technical University in Nizhni Novgorod, Russia

2013 Successfully completed the STARTALK summer program : Heritage Language Teacher Workshop held at UCLA

2011 Presenter on Expert Lecture and Discussion on the Current State of Russia held at university of Houston, C.T. Bauer College of Business

SERVICES

2024 Member of Arizona delegation to Kazakhstan (representatives from state agencies, Arizona National Guard and the governor's office). This visit helped to build partnership between Arizona and Kazakhstan

2024 As a member of the Arizona delegation, I participated in a meeting with Mr. Daniel Rosenblum, the U.S. Ambassador to Kazakhstan, where we discussed strengthening partnerships to benefit the citizens of both Arizona and Kazakhstan

2024 Member of the Student Affairs and Grievances Committee -- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

2024 Advisor of the Central Asian Student Association (CASA)

2024 Provided Rob Cuthbert, a veteran of two wars and an award-winning opinion journalist, with the historical, political, linguistic and analytical knowledge to report from Eastern Ukraine. “ASU graduate student publishes op-eds on in Ukraine”. ASU News. February 06. 2024

2023 Attended meetings with the current Kazakh Ambassador to the United States Yerzhan Ashikbayev. Talked about a collaboration between the oil and gas companies in Kazakhstan and the Thunderbird Center for International Programs

2023 Attended a garden party at the residence of American Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan, Lesslie Viguerie. Talked to several American foreign service officers about career opportunities for ASU students

2023 Served as an advisor to Central Asia Student Association, and with the use of my leadership, CASA has grown into a thriving organization with roughly 70 total members

2023 CASA under my leadership celebrated “ Steppe into Spring”, the International Women's Day“, “Central Asian National Games” and “Holidays in Central Asia”

2023 Attended a meeting with Javlon Vakhabov, the Uzbekistan Ambassador to the United States. We discussed CLI language program in Uzbek language, our work with Fulbright scholars, ASU faculty with interest in Uzbekistan, and the Cintana University partnership in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

2023 Performed 480 hours of community service for 60 days as a Resident Director of CLI Russian Program in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

2022 Performed 480 hours of community service for 60 days as a Resident Director of CLI Russian Program in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

2021 Provided “Cultural Overview of Kazakhstan for ASU- Arizona National Guard delegation for Kazakhstan trip

2021 I and my student, Eli Fox, taught about 1500 students and parents some phrases in Russian to chat with astronauts of the International Space Station

2021 -2022 Presenter for the South and Central Asia PDO for Fulbright Finalists

2019 Meeting with Kyrgyzstan Parliament Delegation (Open World Program sponsored by the Congress of the U.S.)

2019 Performed 480 hours of community service for 60 days as a Resident Director of the CLI Russian Program in St. Petersburg, Russia

2019 Provided the ASU tour in Russian for Kyrgyzstan Parliament Delegation (Open World Program sponsored by the Congress of the U.S.)

2018 Performed 80 hours of community service as a Resident Director of ASU CLI Russian Program in St. Petersburg, Russia

2018 Meeting with Kazakhstani Parliament Delegation (Open World Program, sponsored by the Congress of the U.S.)

2018 Meeting with Kazakhstani Delegation of IT specialists (Open World Program, sponsored by the Congress of the U.S.)

2018 Breakfast with the Ambassador of Republic of Kazakhstan in the U.S. Mr. Kazykhanov (Discussion on the issues of collaboration of ASU and Kazakhstani universities)

2018 Supervisor of Mr.Zabelin, Russian Fulbright TA from Ivanovo State University, RF

2018 Performed 448 hours of community service for two months as a Resident Director of the CLI Russian Program in St. Petersburg, Russia