

GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



APOLLON KUTATELADZE
TBILISI STATE
ACADEMY OF ART



WELCOME TO TBILISI

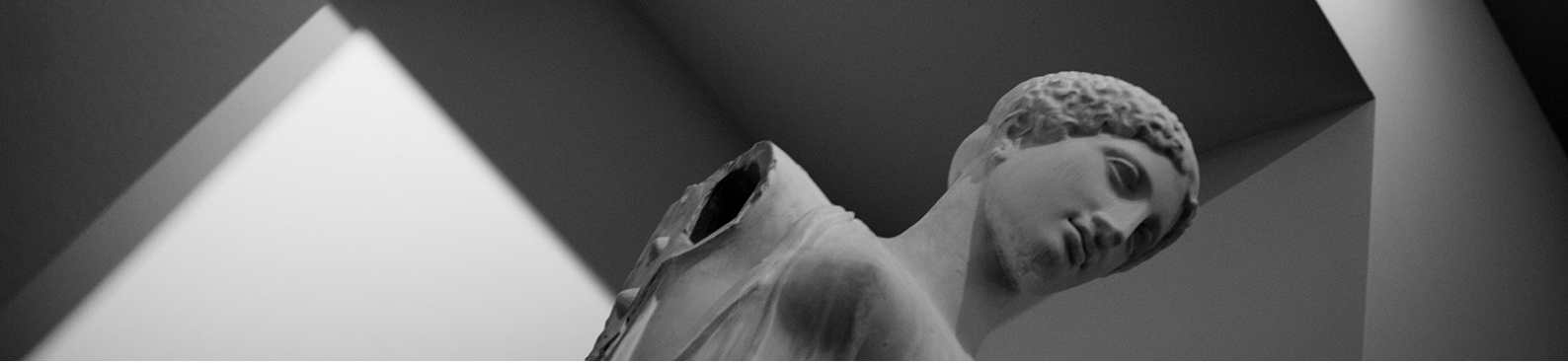
GEORGIA

Georgia is one of the ancient countries in the Caucasus Region. Georgia's geographic location has always had a large influence on its history as well as its economy. The Black Sea also encouraged commerce with many other lands. Located on the southeastern edge of Europe, Georgia has been known for its lucrative east west trade routes ensuring its position as an important transit road for global energy and trade projects.

Founded in the 5th century, Tbilisi is the capital and the largest city of Georgia with roughly 2 million inhabitants. The history of Tbilisi is reflected in its architecture, which is a mix of medieval, classical, Soviet and modern structures.

Historically, Tbilisi has been home to people of diverse cultural, ethnic, and religious backgrounds, though it is overwhelmingly Eastern Orthodox Christian. Georgia is host to an extensive variety of sights, unique cultural venues, museums and other landmarks.





APOLLON KUTATELADZE TBILISI STATE ACADEMY OF ART

► <https://art.edu.ge/en/>

The Tbilisi State Academy of Art was founded in 1922. The 100th anniversary of TSAA which contributed to the country's cultural development, and for its regional and worldwide significance, was celebrated in association with UNESCO.

Dating from the 1850s, the Tbilisi State Academy of Art building is one of the most outstanding heritage sites in Tbilisi. Defined by an eclectic mix of European and oriental architectural and artistic styles, this landmark building is best known for the museum, so-called Mirror Halls, the sumptuous adornment of which, executed by Qajar artists invited from Iran, are reminiscent of the decoration of oriental palaces.

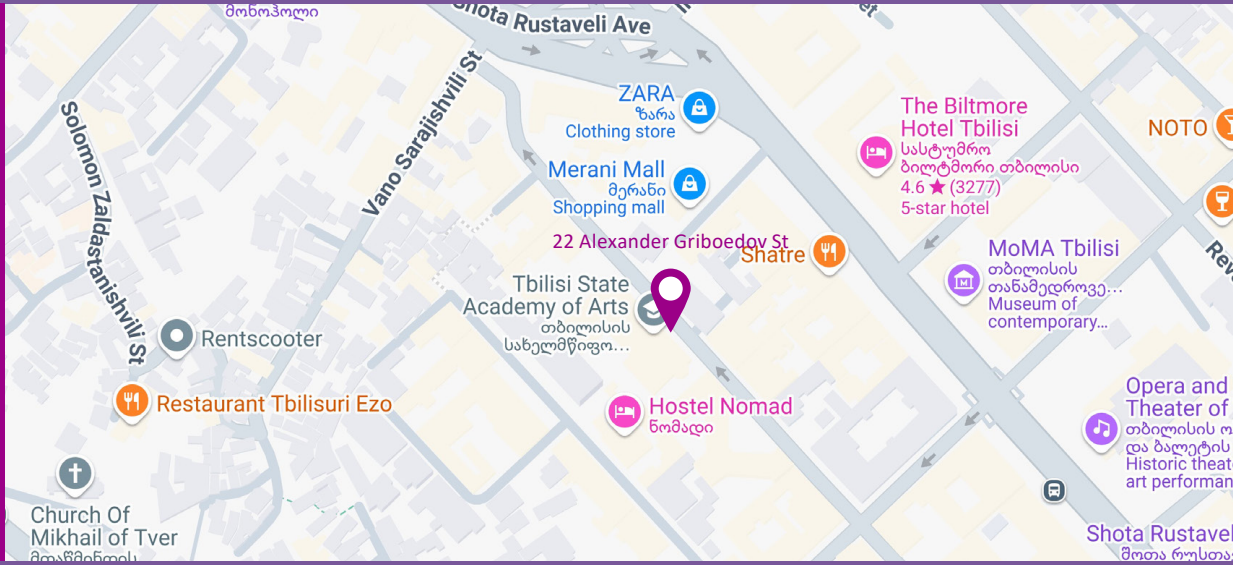
In order to achieve the goal of being relevant to contemporary art scene requirements, and compatible with the common European space of higher art education, the academy's vector for Internationalization strategy is directed toward strengthening of cooperation with the leading European higher art education institutions, becoming involved into international joint projects, comprehensive development of international exchange projects within Erasmus+ program and bilateral/multilateral agreements, that aim sharing academic and creative experience, acquiring new creative vision, skills, etc.

Apollon Kutateladze
Tbilisi State Academy of Art
LOCATIONS

TSAA administration,
Fine arts faculty
studios, department
of ceramics, Mirror
Halls, Big exhibition
Hall, 'Blue Table Cloth'
Laboratory

**TSAA MAIN
HISTORIC BUILDING**

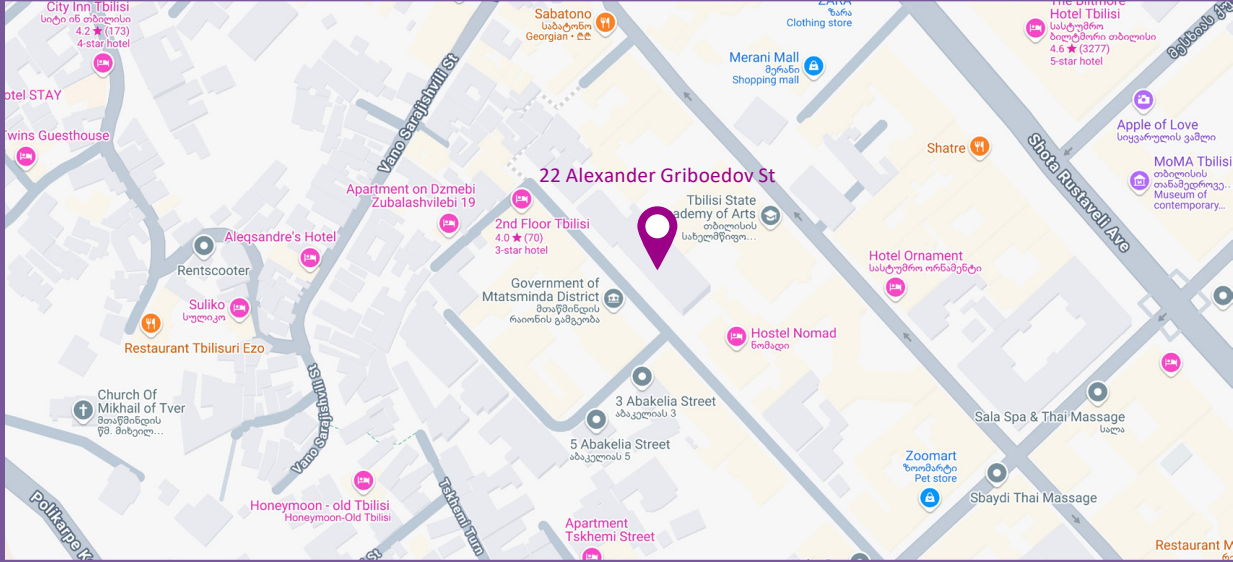
22 Alexander
Griboedov street



Faculties of
Architecture
and Media arts,
departments of
Graphics, Fashion
design, art history and
theory

**TSAA HIGHER
BUILDING**

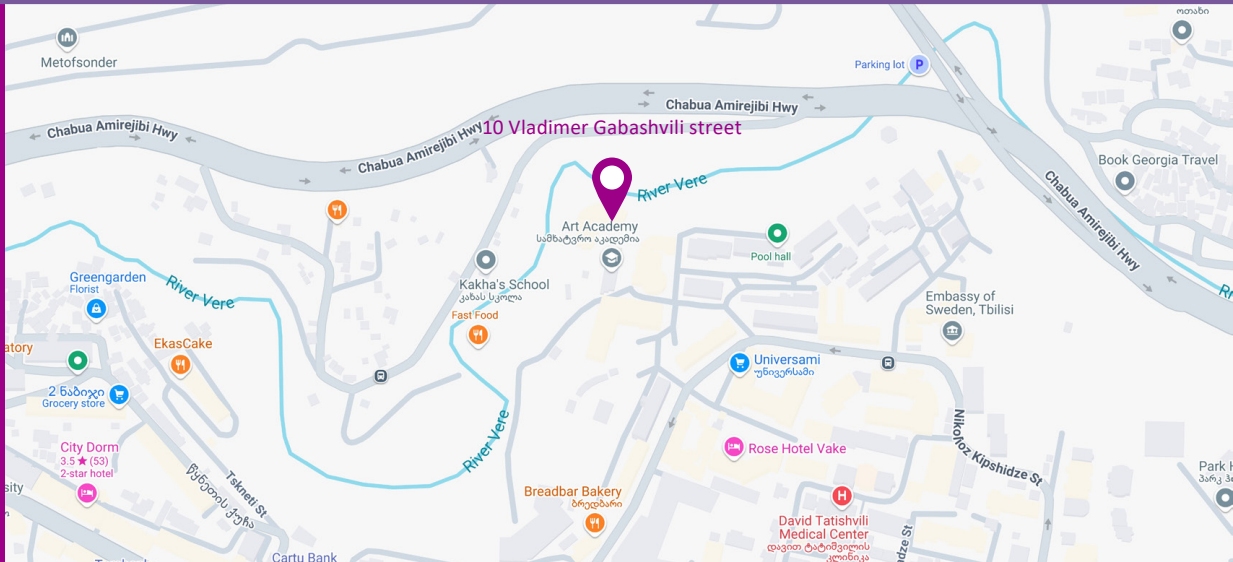
22 Alexander
Griboedov Street



Faculty of Design
– departments of
Industrial design,
furniture design, glass
design; Department
of Restoration/
conservation

TSAA BUILDING

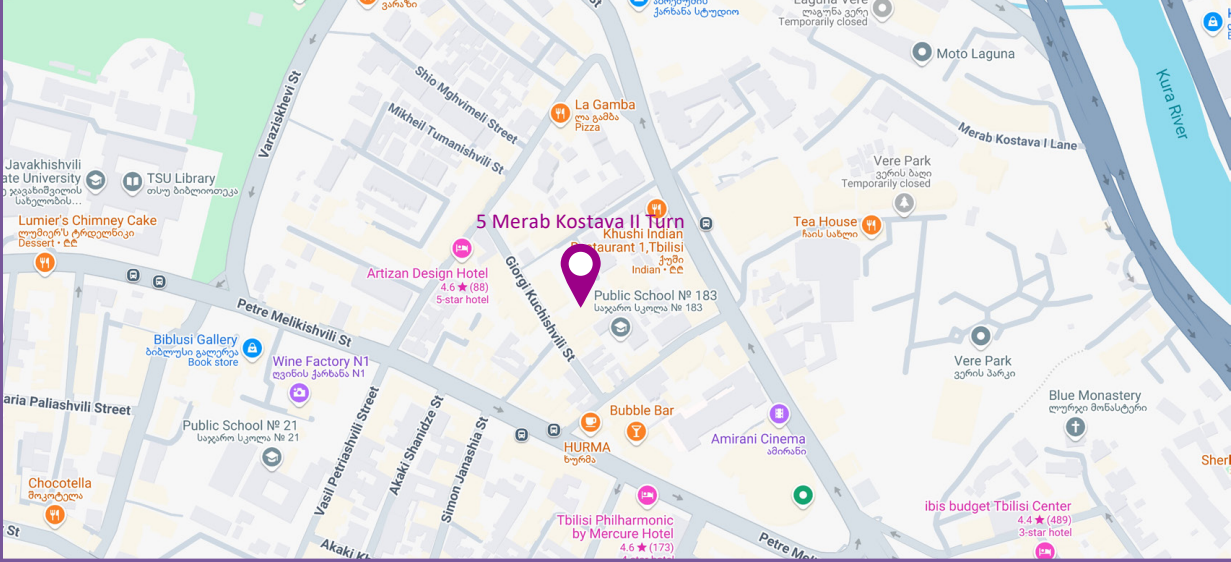
10 Vladimer Gabashvili
street



Departments of
Cinema/Theatre arts,
Jewellery design

TSAA BUILDING

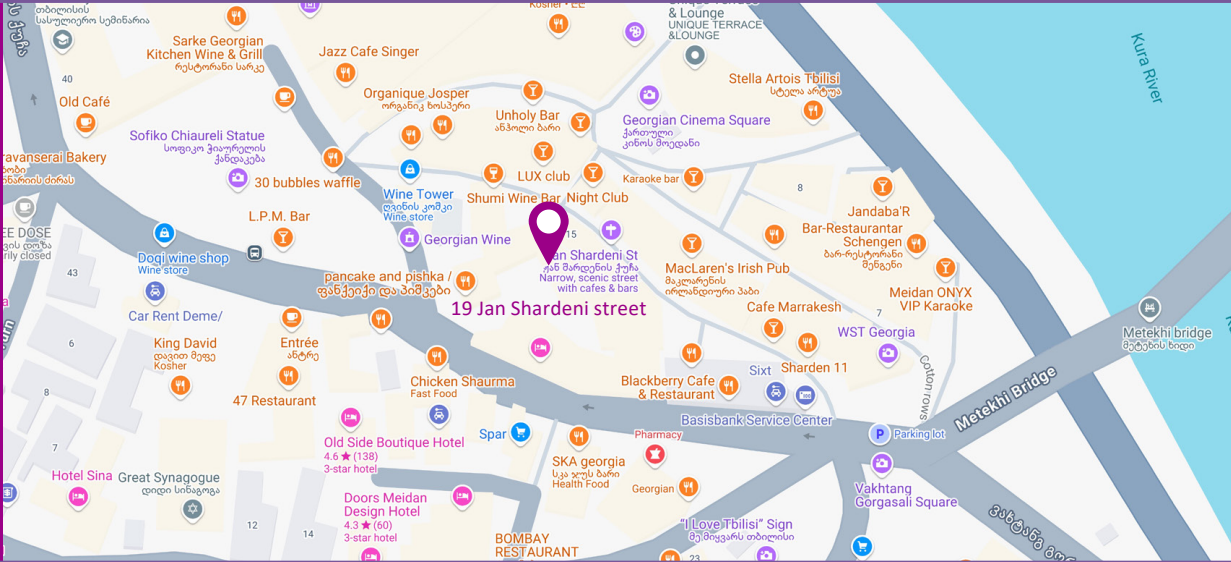
5 Merab Kostava II Turn



Tapestry Museum,
LifeLong Learning
Center

TSAA BUILDING

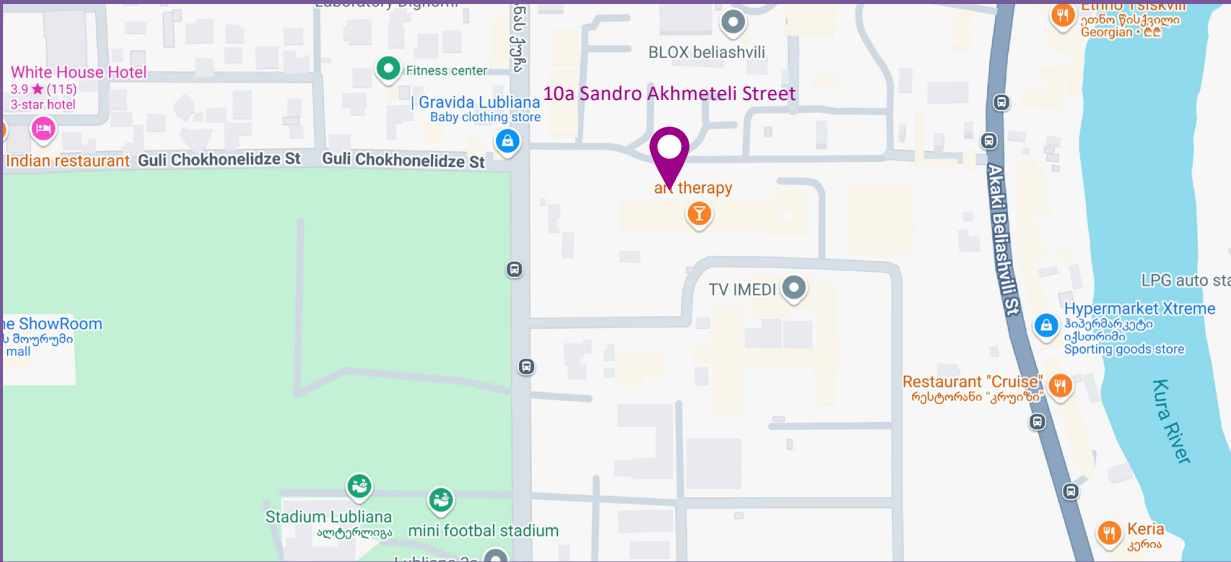
19 Jan Shardeni street



Sculpture studios

TSAA BUILDING

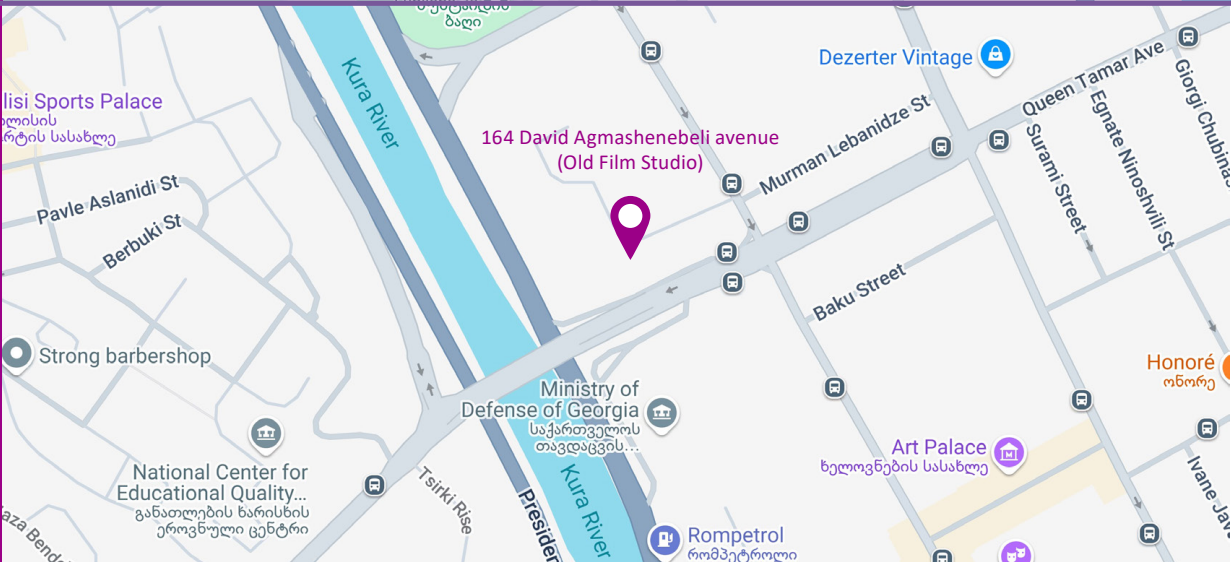
10a Sandro Akhmeteli
Street



Fine arts faculty's
studios, presentation
venue

TSAA BUILDING

164 David
Agmashenebeli avenue
(Old Film Studio)



TSAA FACULTIES

- ▶ <https://art.edu.ge/en/phakultetebi/>
 - Fine Arts
 - Architecture
 - Restoration, Art History and Theory
 - Design
 - Media Art

TSAA PROGRAMS IN ENGLISH

TSAA programs catalog

- ▶ <https://art.edu.ge/en/saswavlo-programebi/>

PHD PROGRAM IN MEDIA ART/DIGITAL MEDIA

- ▶ <https://art.edu.ge/en/phakultetebi/mediaxelovneba/katalogi/>
 - Painting – to be launched
 - Textile Design – to be launched
 - Ceramics – to be launched
 - Media arts MA program – to be launched

Georgian language course at TSAA

- ▶ <https://art.edu.ge/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Georgian-Language-1.pdf>



CONTACT INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

TSAA International Relations Department:

for help with academic or practical matters, contact the International Relations Office

- **International Relations Office:** international@art.edu.ge
- **IRO Head:** maya.kipiani@art.edu.ge
- **International coordinator for Media arts and Architecture faculties:** nestan.tsiklauri@art.edu.ge
- **International coordinator for Fine arts and Design faculties:** nata.nikoleishvili@art.edu.ge
- **International coordinator for department of Restoration/conservation and Art history and theory:** nino_rigvava@art.edu.ge

TSAA MEDIA ARTS FACULTY

- **Email:** mediaarts.faculty@art.edu.ge
- **Cell:** +995 595 71 78 20

ARRIVAL TO TBILISI

AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Tbilisi International Airport (TBS) is 17 km from the city center. Upon arrival, you can take a taxi (expect to pay around 60-80 GEL to reach central Tbilisi), use a ride-hailing app like Bolt, or hop on the public bus. Buses to the city center depart every 30 minutes, and the fare is 1 GEL.

Kutaisi International Airport (KUT), located in western Georgia, offers budget airline services. The distance from Kutaisi to Tbilisi is approximately 200 km, a journey of around 3 hours by bus. The Georgian Bus Company as well as Omnibus provide transfers between Kutaisi and Tbilisi, coordinated with specific flight schedules.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Bus N337 operates between the Tbilisi airport and the city center, with departures every 15 to 30 minutes from the bus stop located directly in front of the Arrivals Hall. The route connects to Tbilisi's main railway station. Tickets can be purchased using a foreign bank card or a rechargeable Travel Card, which is valid for all public transport in the city and available at metro stations for 2 GEL. Free transfers are permitted between metro and bus rides within 90 minutes when using the card. Passengers traveling without a ticket will incur a fine of 20 GEL.

Free Library at Tbilisi Metro – enjoy free “QR library” at the Metro Stations of the city! You have an opportunity to download from the banners the digital version of the desired book by using QR code free of charge. The reading of books is available via free application – SABA Reader. You can simply select your favorite book and enjoy reading

Full information about public transport in Tbilisi

▶ ttc.com.ge

VISA AND REGISTRATION

Depending on your nationality, you may be required to obtain a student visa before entering Georgia. Upon arrival, you must register with local authorities if your stay exceeds 90 days.

- ▶ To confirm your visa status, please consult the official website: <https://www.geoconsul.gov.ge/en>

Travel and Health Insurance

Travel and Health Insurance It is the responsibility of each student to obtain appropriate travel and health insurance for the duration of their stay at TSAA. Please consult your insurance provider to ensure you have international coverage that is valid in Georgia. You can also purchase local insurance through companies like Ardi, GPI Holding, etc.



ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

BANKING

Foreign students may open a local bank account, which can simplify transactions and help avoid foreign transaction fees. Major banks in Georgia, like **TBC** and **Bank of Georgia**, have branches throughout Tbilisi and offer English-language services.

SIM CARDS AND INTERNET

SIM cards are readily available at the airport and city kiosks from providers like **Magti**, **Geocell**, and **Beeline**. Plans are inexpensive and include mobile data.

TBILISI INFORMATION CENTER

118 09 (from a cell phone)

EMERGENCY

112 - police/fire/rescue service and ambulance.

ACCOMMODATION

While TSAA doesn't provide on-campus housing, international students often stay in rented apartments or shared student housing. Popular districts near TSAA include:

- **Vera:** Close to the Academy, offers plenty of cafes, shops, and public transport.
- **Saburtalo:** A bit further but well-connected by metro, with affordable rental options.
- **Vake:** Upscale with parks and easy access to Tbilisi's major attractions. Websites like MyHome.ge and SS.ge are helpful for finding rentals.

FOOD AND RESTAURANTS

Georgian cuisine is both unique and affordable. Try traditional dishes like **khachapuri** (cheese bread) and **Khinkali** (dumplings) at local restaurants. Tbilisi has diverse dining options, from local eateries to international cuisine, and most meals are affordable, typically ranging from 20 to 30 GEL. For groceries, **Carrefour**, **Agrohub**, **Goodwill** supermarkets are widely available. Fresh produce can be found at markets like **Dezerter Bazaar**.

SOCIAL LIFE AND SAFETY

Tbilisi is generally safe, with friendly locals. Popular hangouts for students include cafes on **Rustaveli Avenue** and the **Old Town**, which is full of art galleries, bars, clubs and cafes. Additionally, TSAA frequently organizes exhibitions, workshops, and events for students to engage in the local art scene.

- ▶ <https://www.info-tbilisi.com/en/> is a great resource for keeping up on current events and activities in the city.

- ▶ Some of the museums and galleries in Tbilisi
 - **Museums:** <https://museum.ge/index.php?m=300&lng=eng>
 - **National Gallery of Georgia:** This gallery displays Georgian art from the 19th century onward, featuring notable works by Pirosmiani, Gudiashvili, and others.
 - **Georgian Museum of Fine Arts:** showcases 20th century Georgian visual art, <https://www.finearts.ge/en>
 - **Tbilisi Art Fair for contemporary arts:** <https://tbilisiartfair.art/>
 - **Tbilisi Photography & Multimedia Museum,** <https://tpmm.ge/en/> located within **Stamba Hotel**, dedicated to contemporary photography, new media, and video, and collaborates with the **Tbilisi Photo Festival** <https://www.tbilisiphotofestival.com/en/>, bringing diverse perspectives through photography