

LALAKHANIM ORUJOVA

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EDUCATION

University of South Florida (USF), Tampa, FL Doctor of Philosophy in Leadership, Policy, and Lifelong Learning	<i>May 2026</i>
University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK The Postgraduate Certificate in Education	<i>May 2018</i>
Azerbaijan Pedagogical University, Baku, Azerbaijan Bachelor of Education, Preschool education and bringing-up	<i>August 2015</i>
International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia Master of Business Administration and Management	<i>May 2013</i>
Baku Slavic University, Baku, Azerbaijan Bachelor of Education, Russian Language and Literature	<i>June 2003</i>

HIGHER EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Graduate Assistant, Leadership in Education

College of Education, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL *Aug 2025 – Present*

- Provided research support and assisted with Edvision system implementation, including student data management in coordination with administrative staff.

Graduate Writing Tutor

Writing Studio, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL *March 2025 – Present*

- Provide individualized academic writing support to graduate students across disciplines, with a focus on clarity, structure, and citation formatting.

Lecturer, Instructor (online)

Khazar University, Baku, Azerbaijan *Jan 2022 – Present*

- Develop and deliver tailored lesson plans and curricula for undergraduate and graduate courses, utilizing innovative teaching strategies to foster an engaging learning environment;
- Supervise and mentor graduate students in their academic research and thesis preparation, providing academic advising to support their coursework and career development; assess and grade assignments, projects, and exams;
- Actively contribute to curriculum development, serve on university committees, and participate in academic events, including organizing workshops, seminars, and engaging in scholarly research.

Research Assistant, Leadership in Education

College of Education, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL *March 2022 – Dec 2024*

- Conducted comprehensive literature reviews, using a shared drive folder to organize and synthesize the results efficiently.
- Designed and conducted qualitative research, including developing interview protocols, scheduling interviews, and analyzing collected data;
- Assisted in data analysis using software tools (e.g., NVivo, SPSS) to interpret both qualitative research findings.

K 12 TEACHING, TRAINING AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Head of Education & License Department

Creative Times Academy, Tampa Florida *Jan 2025-Present*

- Manage the licensing process for educational programs, ensuring adherence to internal standards requirements.
- Serve as the primary liaison with accrediting bodies ensuring ongoing compliance and quality assurance.

- Oversee the day-to-day operations, including budget management, resource allocation, and process optimization.
- Monitor program performance and implement continuous improvements to drive educational excellence.

Trainer & Author

Center for Professional Development of Education Workers

Jan 2017 – August 2024

- Developed and wrote more than 30 professional development programs that were based on research and were intended to improve the expertise of teachers and promote the use of evidence-based instructional practices.

Moderator, Head of Project,

T-Network Education Online Platform

Jan 2022 – June 2023

- Moderated educational podcasts about K 12 issues, facilitating discussions with high-profile speakers, including government officials and education experts, to provide valuable insights for educators;
- Invited and coordinated with prominent speakers, ensuring a diverse range of perspectives on educational topics relevant to the online platform's audience;

Assistant of Head of Grant Project

Ministry of Education and Science, Baku, Azerbaijan

March 2018-Jun 2021

- Educated staff and participants on grant policies, reviewed proposals, and managed digital records to ensure compliance and alignment with project objectives;
- Prepared statistical reports and documentation to support project management and data-driven decision-making throughout the grant process.

Head of KS 1

Azerbaijan British College, Baku, Azerbaijan

Aug 2014 – Aug 2021

- Oversaw the planning and delivery of engaging lessons across all subjects, ensuring individualized instruction and support for diverse student needs;
- Led the development and implementation of assessment strategies, monitored student performance, and ensured effective progress tracking;
- Directed curriculum planning to align with community needs and maintained a stimulating, wellorganized classroom environment across KS1;
- Managed communication with parents, engaged with the community, and spearheaded professional development initiatives, mentoring staff to enhance teaching practices.

Early Years, Mentor, Head of Clubs

Meridian International School, Kiev, Ukraine

Aug 2013– Aug 2014

- Provided mentorship to Early Years educators, enhancing teaching practices and contributing to curriculum development to support student learning and development;
- Directed the planning and management of student clubs, creating engaging activities to foster students' interests, social skills, and overall growth.

Head Teacher in Early Years

Chaghlar International School, Tbilisi, Georgia

Aug 2009– Aug 2013

- Maintained and scheduling weekly and monthly activities. Provided age-appropriate experiences and activities for children, including storytelling, games and songs.

Head of Russian language department

Elton, Baku, Azerbaijan

Sep 2003– June 2009

- Established the Russian Language Department.
- Developed and updated course curricula, training materials and assessments (exams, continuous assessment tasks)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Treasurer

Azerbaijani Students Association, USF, Tampa, FL

May 2022 – Aug 2024

- Managed budget allocations, tracked expenses, and maintained accurate financial records for the Graduate Students Council;

- Prepared financial reports, ensured transparency, and adhered to university financial policies
- Organized fundraising initiatives and secured grants to support student projects and council activities.

President,

College of Education, Graduate Students Council, USF, Tampa, FL

May 2024 – Present

- Lead the council in setting goals, organizing meetings, and advocating for graduate student needs and concerns within the College of Education
- Coordinate events, workshops, and panels to enhance student involvement, foster collaboration with faculty, and build a supportive academic community. Currently leading the TEDx event preparation process.

AWARDS & HONORS

Golden Bull Award Recipient

University of South Florida,

2025

Selected as a recipient of the prestigious 2025 Golden Bull Award in recognition of outstanding achievements, exemplary leadership, and dedicated commitment to the University of South Florida community.

Lillie and Walter Berbecker Scholarship

University of South Florida

2023

Awarded for demonstrating academic excellence and a strong commitment to research in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, this prestigious scholarship—valued at up to \$7,000—supported advanced PhD students in conducting focused research, presenting at national conferences, and publishing scholarly work. As part of this scholarship, I collaborated with Zorka Kharanka and Ulviyya Mokayilova on research projects focused on inclusive education in Azerbaijan.

“Star of Education” Award

2018

Awarded for contributions to education and teacher professional development. Selected from 160,000 educators for the development of research-based training programs and leadership of workshops incorporating evidence-based teaching practices, such as storytelling and didactic games. Recognized for empowering educators and transforming instructional methods. Awarded 5,000 AZN and an electronics package.

PUBLICATIONS

Sacco, J. S., & Orujova, L. Not as I Thought: Reflections on Forging a Career While Pushing a Stroller. In *Navigating Academic Motherhood* (pp. 4-14). Routledge.

Orujova, L. (2021). İcma Əsaslı Məktəbəqədər Təhsil Proqramı. Təhsil İnstitutu

Mikayilova, U. T., Orujova, L., & Babayeva, U. (2023). Status of Inclusive Education in Azerbaijan. In *Progress Toward Agenda 2030: A Mid Term Review of the Status of Inclusive Education in Global Contexts* (pp. 121-137). Emerald Publishing Limited.

Orujova, L. (in press). Finding joy in inclusive justice for students with disabilities in Azerbaijan. *Educational Management Administration & Leadership*.

CERTIFICATIONS

Brain techniques and Mind games, Creative Drama Lieder

Suleyman Demirel University, Turkey

2016

Making the PYP happen in Early Years

IB International Workshop, Belgium

2017

Qualitative Research Graduate Certificate,

Education Institute, Baku Azerbaijan

2025

LANGUAGES

Russian, English, Turkish, Ukrainian, Azerbaijani

SKILLS

Project Management & Collaboration Tools: Proficient in using **Slack** for team communication, **Monday.com** for project management, and **Google Workspace (Google Sheets, Google Forms)** for organizing and tracking data

Data Analysis & Reporting: Strong proficiency in **Microsoft Excel** for data analysis