



სოხუმის სახელმწიფო უნივერსიტეტი  
სამეცნიერო კვლევებისა და განვითარების დეპარტამენტი

**Sokhumi State University**  
**Department of Scientific Research and Development**

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N SC 231

July 31, 2026

**Letter of Recommendation**

**Sokhumi State University has maintained close and active cooperation with Professor Dr. Rhonda Sofer of Gordon Academic College since 2013. Professor Sofer has become one of the University's most valued and reliable international partner.**

The long-standing partnership between Sokhumi State University and Professor Rhonda Sofer encompasses a wide range of activities in higher education, including the implementation of joint international initiatives, educational development, and collaborative research.

- 1. Joint International Initiatives.** Since 2012, Professor Sofer has collaborated with Sokhumi State University through several European Union educational projects funded under the **Tempus** and **Erasmus+** programmes, including **DOIT, DARE, and ASSET**, as well as the dissemination of the **CURE Project** within the University. This collaboration has represented a shared journey into the international academic community, significantly enhancing the University's visibility within the global higher education landscape. It has expanded the University's international educational and research networks, contributed to the institutional development of the world's only displaced university, facilitated the exchange of effective institutional and infrastructural practices, and, most importantly, promoted the internationalization, academic engagement, and inclusion of both faculty members and students within the global academic community.
- 2. Development and External Review of Academic Programmes.** Professor Rhonda Sofer has made a substantial contribution to the development and evaluation of academic programmes at Sokhumi State University. She has served as an international expert for the University's Bachelor's and Integrated Bachelor's–Master's Teacher Education programmes offered by the Faculty of Education Sciences, as well as an external reviewer and international expert for the Master's programmes in **Education Sciences** and **Education Policy**.

Her professional recommendations during the design and development of these programmes significantly contributed to their enhancement and successful accreditation. It is noteworthy that the accreditation processes for these programmes were conducted under the leadership of international expert panels.

3. **Cooperation in Scholarly Publishing and Academic Events.** Professor Sofer has actively contributed to the University's scholarly publications and academic activities. Between **2014 and 2018**, she served as a member of the **Editorial and Peer Review Board** of the University journal *Education*. Since **2025**, she has been serving as an international member of the **Editorial Board of the Proceedings of Sokhumi State University**. Since **2018**, Professor Sofer has also been a member of the International Scientific Board of several international conferences and symposia organized at the initiative of Sokhumi State University, including the **International Conference of Young Scientists and Doctoral Students**.

The long-standing cooperation between Sokhumi State University and Professor Rhonda Sofer has long transcended the boundaries of formal academic collaboration and has evolved into a genuine and enduring partnership founded on mutual trust, friendship, and shared academic values. In recognition of her outstanding professionalism, academic excellence, and unwavering commitment to fostering a strong and reliable partnership with Sokhumi State University, the University's Academic Council awarded Professor Rhonda Sofer the title of **Honorary Doctor of Sokhumi State University** in **2015**. Furthermore, in **2018**, the Faculty of Education Sciences inaugurated the **Professor Rhonda Sofer Auditorium**, dedicated to promoting multicultural education, cultural studies, and the history of culture.

It can be stated without exaggeration that Professor Rhonda Sofer is an internationally recognized scholar distinguished by extensive professional experience, exceptional academic integrity, and a profound sense of responsibility. She possesses the expertise required to lead and contribute effectively to international initiatives and large-scale academic programmes, demonstrates outstanding competence in the management and coordination of international projects, and has comprehensive knowledge of international standards in higher education, contemporary approaches to research and innovation, the creation of new knowledge, research planning, and the evaluation of research outcomes.

**Lia Akhaladze** *Lia Akhaladze*  
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