



UNIVERSITY
OF CENTRAL ASIA

Quick Facts



One University, Three Countries

- The University of Central Asia (UCA) is a residential mountain university providing an international standard of higher education to create knowledgeable, skilled and creative graduates who will contribute leadership, ideas and innovations to the region.
- UCA is one of the world's few regional fully residential, internationally chartered universities devoting considerable resources to mountain-based research.
- The University was founded in 2000 through an International Treaty and Charter and ratified by the respective parliaments and registered with the United Nations.
- The Presidents of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan are the Patrons of the University and His Highness the Aga Khan is the Chancellor.
- UCA programmes focus on key social and economic issues facing the region, particularly its mountain communities



Socio-economic Mission & Impact

UCA's mission is to promote the social and economic development of Central Asia, particularly its mountain societies, while helping the different peoples of the region preserve and draw upon their rich cultural traditions and heritages as assets for the future.

Undergraduate Education, Continuing Education & Research

UCA provides rigorous and relevant educational programmes through the **School of Arts and Sciences** and the **School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPCE)**.

UCA's School of Arts and Sciences will benefit from regional and international faculty, including scholars from its Research Institutes, established under the Graduate School of Development. When the first undergraduate class graduates in 2021, UCA plans to launch the Graduate School's first interdisciplinary master's programme.

The University provides initiatives to build teaching and scholarly capacity in the region through:

- **School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPCE)**

SPCE was established in 2006 and celebrates ten years of offering programming designed to improve income-generating opportunities. SPCE is a leading provider of post-secondary, short-

cycle education in Central Asia as well as an academic publisher. The School has trained more than 90,000 participants through 20 programmes in seven areas of study at 12 learning centres throughout the region.

- **Institute for Public Policy and Administration (IPPA)**

IPPA was established in 2011 and celebrates five years of engaging regional and international stakeholders in economics and policy-oriented research, professional development and networking. The Institute aims to improve the quality of governance through its Certificate Programme in Policy Analysis for civil servants in Afghanistan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan.

- **Mountain Societies Research Institute (MSRI)**

MSRI is an interdisciplinary research institute established in 2011. It is dedicated to supporting and enhancing the resilience and quality of life of mountain societies through the generation and application of sound research. MSRI hosts a mobile digital library in Naryn Oblast, a Geographic Information Systems laboratory, an online interactive Knowledge Hub, and the Central Asia and Afghanistan Research Fellowship.

- **Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit (CHHU)**

CHHU is preserving and promoting existing cultural knowledge and collections. CHHU was



90,000 learners trained by the School of Professional and Continuing Education across 12 locations in Central Asia and Afghanistan

13,500 students across **80 universities/colleges** were taught humanities by **780 instructors** through the **Aga Khan Humanities Project** (2011-2016)

73 publications produced by the **Mountain Societies Research Institute, Institute of Public Policy and Administration** and the **Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit.**

1,700 civil servants trained in governance and public policy in Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

launched in 2013 to generate new dialogues on Central Asian heritage and identity. The Unit supports the research of regional scholars through the UCA Cultural Heritage Book Series.

- **Aga Khan Humanities Project (AKHP)**
AKHP was founded in 1997 by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture and joined UCA in 2007. It fosters critical thinking and academic writing skills through an integrated humanities curriculum. AKHP develops and delivers resources, training and courses within a multi-disciplinary framework. A total of 56 universities and 25 colleges in all three of UCA's founding countries use AKHP curriculum and pedagogy in their courses.
- **Central Asian Faculty Development Programme (CAFDP)**
CAFDP aims to create a cadre of Central Asian academics with international experience and recognised credentials. To date, 43 scholars from the region have received support to pursue PhDs and other advanced studies at partner universities in Asia, Europe and North America.

Fully Residential Campuses

In September 2016, UCA launched its first residential campus in Naryn, Kyrgyz Republic. The Khorog, Tajikistan campus is expected to open in September 2017 followed by Tekeli, Kazakhstan anticipated in 2019. When fully operational, the campuses will serve 3,600 students, 1,200 per campus.

Phase I of the Naryn campus accommodates 150 students featuring state-of-the-art classrooms, a library, laboratories and faculty and staff residences. Secure, modular student dormitories create comfortable living and learning spaces. UCA's athletic facilities, including football pitches and tennis courts, are open to the public, encouraging student-community interaction. The sports dome will host indoor athletics year-round.

Partnerships

UCA is built on partnerships that promote the exchange of information and resources, the creation of opportunities and the promotion of excellence in higher education in Central Asia and beyond. Our partnerships cross political borders and sectors. Generous financial support from the region's governments, the international donor community, philanthropists and His Highness the Aga Khan have enabled the University to undertake this ambitious endeavour.

Not-for-Profit University

UCA is an ambitious endeavour and requires the support of many. The founding governments contributed land and extend various fiscal benefits. Total campus construction costs of are US\$85 million in the Kyrgyz Republic; US\$95 million in Tajikistan; and US\$105 million in Kazakhstan. Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), the United States Government's development finance institution has extended US\$30 million



to complete Phase I construction of its Khorog campus, alongside a US\$64.4 million commitment from AKDN, including US\$7.5 million from the Aga Khan Foundation. His Highness the Aga Khan has contributed US\$15 million to an expanding endowment fund. International donor agencies, governments, foundations and corporations have generously extended support to UCA in the past and it is anticipated this will continue in the future.

Secular-based Education

UCA is a secular institution of higher education embracing no religion or creed and open to men and women of all faiths and traditions, or no religious beliefs, purely on the basis of merit.

UCA operates within a framework of values that

espouses academic excellence, individual rights and security, responsibility to community and public service, and ethical and transparent operations of government and business.

Governance

- UCA will be governed by a Board of Trustees to be appointed by the Chancellor and Patrons of the University.
- Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, Chairman, Board of Trustees is leading the planning and building of UCA's three campuses in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan.
- The Management Executive Committee oversees the University's broad scale of operations, from academics and research to administration and construction.

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