

Language Proficiency and Standardized Tests

Q: Can I submit my English language test results after the application deadline?

A: Yes, you may submit your English language test results later. Only applicants who receive a conditional offer from Cambridge will be required to meet the English language proficiency requirement at that stage. Therefore, you do not need to include English test scores with your initial application to UCA.

Q: Is a TOEFL or IELTS score required even if my prior education was in English?

A: Yes, all applicants must submit TOEFL or IELTS scores, as this is a requirement set by Cambridge, regardless the language of previous studies.

Q: Should TOEFL or IELTS scores be submitted directly to Cambridge, UCA, or both?

A: TOEFL or IELTS scores are required by Cambridge and must be submitted as part of the application process if you receive a conditional offer from Cambridge. If you receive a conditional offer, you will have time to meet their requirements.

Application Process and Alignment with UCA or AKDN Roles

Q: Should I specify potential contributions to UCA or AKDN in my personal statement?

A: Yes, we strongly encourage applicants to outline how they intend to apply their skills within UCA or AKDN. To assist with this, we recommend visiting the [UCA](#) and [AKDN](#) websites to learn more about key focus areas.

Q: I understand that there is a two-stage application process where candidates apply to UCA first and, if shortlisted, may then apply to Cambridge. Does this give UCA-affiliated applicants any advantage over others?

A: The two-stage application process with UCA and Cambridge Trust exists to streamline and prioritize candidates who meet both academic and funding criteria. As this is a competitive programme co-funded by UCA and the Cambridge Trust, we conduct an initial review to ensure alignment with UCA's and Cambridge's standards and available funding. Candidates who apply independently to Cambridge are subject to Cambridge's standard admissions without UCA's involvement, and such applications are considered separately from CAFDP's partnership process.

Q: Can I apply for both a master's and a PhD programme?

A: Yes, you can apply for both, but each application must be submitted separately. Alternatively, you can apply for an integrated MPhil-to-PhD programme. It is recommended to focus on one application to make it as strong as possible.

Q: Is there an age limit for applying?

A: There is no specific age limit. Mature students and mid-career professionals are welcome to apply, as long as you meet the programme's requirements.

Q: Does the scholarship support family members?

A: No, the scholarship only covers the individual scholar. Additional support for family members is not provided.

Scholarships and Prioritization

Q: What programmes are prioritized for scholarships?

A: Priority is given to programmes that align with UCA's teaching and research focus areas. Applicants are encouraged to review UCA's undergraduate and graduate programmes on the website to identify areas of alignment.

Post-Study Employment Requirements

Q: What are the requirements after graduation?

A: Graduates are expected to return to UCA or contribute to AKDN. The specific role and placement depend on the individual's field of study and the opportunities available at the time of graduation. We encourage you to visit the [UCA](#) and [AKDN](#) websites to find more information about our areas of interest.

Q: Are graduates required to teach at UCA campuses after returning, or can they work broadly within the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN)?

A: Post-graduation placement within UCA or AKDN will depend primarily on your field of study and the opportunities available at the time of your graduation. While some graduates may engage in teaching, others might focus on research or contribute through roles within AKDN. Specific placement options will be discussed during the interview process as more information about your academic path becomes available. We encourage you to visit the [UCA](#) and [AKDN](#) websites to find more information about our areas of interest.

Application Status and Further Information

Q: Where can I find more information or ask follow-up questions?

A: You can visit UCA's website for more details. If you have additional questions, you can email cafdp@ucentralasia.org for assistance.

Q: What criteria are used to evaluate applications?

A: Applications are evaluated based on academic achievements, research potential, alignment with UCA or AKDN's needs, and commitment to return to UCA or AKDN after the programme.

Q: Will I need to repay the funding if I decide not to return to UCA after completing my studies?

A: Yes, the programme requires a commitment to work at UCA or AKDN after your studies. Failure to fulfil this commitment will result in the obligation to repay the scholarship amount.

Q: How will I know if I have been shortlisted for the next stage of the application process to Cambridge?

A: If you are shortlisted, you will be notified directly by UCA. Applicants moving to the next stage will receive an invitation to formally apply to Cambridge. If you do not hear from UCA within the announced timeline, it may mean your application was not shortlisted.

Additional Information

Q: Is there anything I need to know?

A: While UCA facilitates your initial application process, you will also need to familiarize yourself with the [Cambridge online portal](#). Cambridge may request additional documents or information during the application process. It is important to regularly check the portal for updates and ensure you meet their specific requirements in parallel with UCA's submission process.