



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ASIA

Tajikistan • Kyrgyzstan • Kazakhstan

GRADUATION: CLASS OF 2023

JUNE 16, 2023



GRADUATION CEREMONY PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 16 JUNE 2023

09:30 Tajikistan time, 10:30 Kyrgyzstan time, and 04:30 UTC

GRADUATION PROCESSION ENTERS

NATIONAL ANTHEMS

WELCOME ADDRESS

DR SHAMSH KASSIM-LAKHA
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ADDRESS

PRINCESS ZAHRA AGA KHAN
UCA TRUSTEE

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

ANITA ZAIDI
BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

ADDRESS BY CHIEF GUEST, NARYN

ADDRESS BY CHIEF GUEST, KHOROG

VALEDICTORIAN ADDRESS

PRESENTATION OF DEGREES

VOTE OF THANKS

GRADUATION PROCESSION DEPARTS

LUNCH

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN



On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the UCA community, I congratulate the Class of 2023 on this auspicious occasion of the University's third Convocation ceremony. Today, we have the honor of recognizing this remarkable graduating class, consisting of 76 outstanding individuals from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, and Tajikistan.

UCA, a not-for-profit secular university, remains steadfast in its mission to become the preeminent educational, research, and knowledge center in the region for the development of a new generation of Central Asian visionaries, innovators, and trailblazers. The University is diligently establishing itself as a catalyst for transformative change in Central Asia. This is made possible by the unwavering support from the Chancellor, His Highness the Aga Khan, the Governments of Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, the Aga Khan Development Network, as well as our renowned international partners. Together, they are advancing social and economic development in the region, particularly in the mountain communities.

Dear Parents,

Today, we rejoice not only in the accomplishments of the Class of 2023, but also in your own most important role in this journey. These impressive individuals have not only thrived academically, but throughout the past five years, they have recognized the significance of embracing diversity and fostering a strong sense of community. They understand that learning is an ongoing process that will continue throughout their lives, benefiting them greatly in their chosen professions and career paths.

Dear Graduates,

While celebrating your achievement today, we eagerly look forward to learning of your progress along the boundless potential for which UCA has prepared each of you. Throughout your time at UCA, we hope you have acquired the courage and insight to pose thought-provoking questions, as well as the determination and competence to uncover their solutions. Stay unwavering in your aspirations and humble in your accomplishments. In the face of challenges, be resilient and remain grounded in your fundamental values. Most importantly, maintain a strong connection with your alma mater, the University of Central Asia, which will always welcome you with open arms..

Dr Shamsh Kassim-Lakha
Chairman, Board of Trustees

THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ASIA

The University of Central Asia (UCA) was founded in 2000 as a private, not for profit, secular university through an International Treaty signed by the Presidents of Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Kazakhstan, and His Highness the Aga Khan; ratified by their respective parliaments, and registered with the United Nations. The Presidents are Patrons of the University and His Highness is the Chancellor. UCA brings with it the broader commitment and partnership of the Aga Khan Development Network.

UCA focuses on the development of mountain societies, and its undergraduate programmes are located at purpose-built world class residential campuses in Naryn, Kyrgyzstan, and Khorog, Tajikistan near the Tien Shan and Pamir mountains, respectively. The campus in Tekeli, Kazakhstan, is in the planning stage.

UCA is at the heart of an intellectual and economic transformation in the region, and offers a wide range of opportunities through its three primary schools: the School of Arts and Sciences (SAS), the Graduate School of Development (GSD), and the School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPCE).

SAS offers a five-year undergraduate programme that cultivates the knowledge and skills students need to integrate different approaches to solve problems and create innovations in professional life and public service. The curriculum combines a liberal arts and sciences education, where students study integrative majors combining several disciplines.

GSD consists of UCA's Institute of Public Policy and Administration, the Mountain Societies Research Institute, the Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit, the Civil Society Initiative, and the Aga Khan Humanities Project. The Schools are multi-dimensional, interdisciplinary, and designed primarily to generate research and knowledge that has practical applications to mountain communities.

SPCE was founded in 2006 and offers post-secondary and continuing education, giving young people and adults professional and vocational qualifications and income generating opportunities. Certificate programmes are offered in 16 learning centres across Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Afghanistan.

www.ucentralasia.org

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Bachelor of Arts in Global Economics

ANUSHA ASHUROVA
ANUSHER KHUMORIKOV
ANUSHERVON NAZARALIEV
BEZHAN BAHROMOV
GULABRU ABDURAKHMONOVA
ISMOIL DUSTAMBAEV
KHIZRDOD NAZAROV
KHONUM VAFODOROVA
MAHTOB MIRZOJONOVA
MALIKA SHOGUNBEKOVA
MEHER ANGAIZ
NAIMA MAMADRASULOVA
NISAR ALI
RASHODKHUJA RUSTAMOV
SABRINA GULMAMADOVA
TOLIBSHO MUBORAKSHOEV
WAJAHAT ALI KHAN
ZAINAB MUBORAKSHOEVA

Bachelor of Science in Earth and Environmental Sciences

AKHMAD GULBEKOV
ANISA ZARJUMIEVA
FARIYA BAIG
KHUSHRUZ SAIDIBROIMOV
MAVLUDA CHINIEVA
NITASHA
RABIA FAQIR
RASINA SHAMIROVA
RUDOBA IMRONSHOEVA
SABRINA MUZAFARI
SHOAIB ATAYEE
SUHAYLO GHARIBOVA
TAZARF SHAMIROVA
UBAID SAYEDI
ZAYNURA KAYKOVUSOVA

Bachelor of Arts in Communications and Media

AIBEK NIIAZALIEV
AIDA ONGAIBAYEVA
AIDA YESSIMOVA
ALEKSEY LEE
ALISHO QONUNOV
ANIS CHORSHANBIEV
ASSYLBEK ASSYLKHANOV
BIBISORO KUKANBEKOVA
DARIKA URGAZIEVA
ELINA NAM
GULBORBONU MIRZOEVA
LOLA BODURENOVA
MILENA MELNIKOVA
NARIMON NURMAMADOV
NURIYA MULLO-ABDOLOVA
SAVRIBEGIM NAZARSHOEVA
SHAKHNOZA KURBONMAMADOVA
ZALKAR BORONBAEV

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

ABBOSJON MADIEV
AIZA ZHENISHBEKOVA
ALEXANDRA YUGAY
ARFAN SHAH
ARYSTAN ALTYNBAEV
BASHIR ALAM
BEGAIYM BEKSULTANOVA
DIANA TENIRBERGENOVA
DILOVAR MASHRABOV
EMIR ABASKANOV
ERLAN BAZAROV
HAMROZ GAVHAROV
HAMZA NOYOBShOEV
KANYKEI MAIRAMBEKOVA
KHUSHNUD BOQIEV
MEERBEK AKIMZHANOV
MIRZONABOT MIRZONABOTOV
NAITA ABDRAKHMANOVA
NINA PETRUSHKOVA
ROMIZ ABDULLAEV
RYSGUL NURBEKOVA
SHAHNOZA DODIKHUDOEVA
SHAKHANSHO SABZALIEV
SHANBE QADAMShOEV

UCA GRADUATION REGALIA

A Brief Background

In anticipation of the first graduation of the University of Central Asia's (UCA) School of Arts and Sciences in 2021, a Committee was appointed in 2020 to oversee the design and production of the graduation gowns and caps for students, faculty, and other participants of the convocation. The Committee included UCA faculty and staff from the three Founding States to provide input from their perspectives, and was chaired by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of UCA, Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha.

An international design competition was held with the following key guidelines:

- Incorporate cultural and traditional motifs from the decorative arts of the Founding States of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and the Ismaili Imam, as Founders of UCA.
- The design should reflect a blend of decorative traditions of Central Asia, but not clearly identifiable with any one country or culture.
- The gown and cap (with tassel) should be gender neutral, and not appear religious in character.
- The colours should harmonize with the UCA logo: light blue dark blue, and white.

An open competition was announced and over 50 designers from eight countries submitted their proposals. Three winners were selected, and their design ideas were blended into the final UCA regalia.



The student graduation regalia, which represents the basic design, is shown on the left:

The various decorative motifs used on the gowns are from Central Asia. The primary or core design is a decorative chain motif that is popular throughout the region, and while it is known by many names, it is meant to symbolize friendship, unity, and loyalty.

Mindful that the UCA regalia should not be identified with any one country or culture, this core motif was remastered and stylized by the designer so that while it maintains a connection to the original inspiration, it looks different and unique to UCA. In this way it transcends nationalities and borders. In order to ensure that the design would be acceptable and have a distinct Central Asian look, cultural experts were consulted from the three Founding States.



Other motifs used on the regalia include:



On the left is the Alof motif, symbolic of fire, and meant to portray warmth and hospitality. Another popular motif on the right has been remastered and stylized and used on the sleeves and back of the gowns.



The photo on the left shows a typical cap for the UCA graduation gown incorporating the main regalia design, and adding other popular design motifs from Central Asia.

Faculty Regalia follow the same design concept as the graduates but distinguished by gold embroidery and cords which increase in number depending on rank. Photo on the right shows a Professor's gown with three lines of gold cords.



The Trustees of UCA have gowns with more elaborate decorative motifs:



The Presidents of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan, as Patrons of UCA, wear a gown with a navy blue base with gold embroidery. An invited Chief Guest wears this same regalia:



The UCA Chancellor's Regalia is identical in design to the Patron's regalia but on a white base:



