



UNIVERSITY
OF CENTRAL ASIA

UCA Brief Profile



KAZAKHSTAN



KYRGYZSTAN



TAJKISTAN

The University of Central Asia (UCA) is one of the world's few regional, internationally chartered, fully residential institutions with a mission to improve the quality of life of mountain societies. It was founded in 2000 as a private, not for profit, secular university through an International Treaty signed by the Presidents of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, and His Highness the Aga Khan; ratified by their respective parliaments and registered with the United Nations. The Presidents are the Patrons of the University, and His Highness is the Chancellor.

UCA's mission is to promote the social and economic development of Central Asia, particularly its mountain communities, by offering an internationally recognised standard of higher education, and enabling the peoples of the region to preserve their rich cultural heritage as assets for the future.



UCA's campuses in Khorog, Tajikistan and Naryn, Kyrgyzstan as well as the one planned in Tekeli, Kazakhstan are all in rural mountainous towns along the historic Silk Road, at the heart of the economic, social, and intellectual transformation taking place in the region.

With the broader commitment and partnership of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), and of its three schools, the University is uniquely positioned to bring together regional leaders in business, civil society, and public service.

Photo: UCA Campus in Khorog, Tajikistan





Photo: UCA Campus in Naryn, Kyrgyzstan

School of Arts and Sciences

The School of Arts and Sciences offers Bachelors Degree programmes with majors in Computer Science, Communications and Media, Global Economics, and Earth and Environmental Sciences at its residential campuses in Khorog, Tajikistan and Naryn, Kyrgyzstan. Future plans include majors in Engineering Sciences and Business Management.

Students have a demonstrated record of academic achievements as well as all-round excellence. They are winners of academic competitions, passionate advocates for the disadvantaged, talented artists and musicians, award-winning athletes, and enthusiastic

volunteers. UCA graduates have been admitted, several on full scholarships, to internationally recognised universities including Brown, Duke, Michigan, University of Toronto, Simon Fraser University and National University of Singapore.

SAS Students Profile



80% from the Founding States



70% rural

Graduate School of Development

The **Graduate School of Development** serves as a hub for conducting multidisciplinary research. Its five distinctive but overlapping research institutes have established thematic expertise in the economies of Central Asia. **Mountain Societies Research Institute** applies broad environmental science expertise and spatial science skills to address issues of food and water security, climate change and the cryosphere with a view to enhancing the resilience of mountain societies. **Institute of Public Policy and Administration** is a research based think tank that carries out applied economic research in public finance, trade, agriculture, and labor markets.

Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit advances UCA's mission to help preserve and promote Central Asia's rich cultural traditions and heritage as assets for the future. **Civil Society Initiative** aims to facilitate learning networks around key themes of good governance, health, education, and the environment. The **Aga Khan Humanities Project** fosters critical thinking through an integrated humanities curriculum taught at public universities and schools in the region. A new multidisciplinary Masters Programme in Economic Development and Technological Innovation is expected to be launched in 2025.



School of Professional and Continuing Education

The School of Professional and Continuing Education is the leading provider of short cycle professional education courses designed to improve employment and income-generating opportunities. These courses are offered at 16 learning centres, including five in Afghanistan.

SPCE courses include coding and digital security,

digital and media literacy skills, English language, tourism and IT, entrepreneurship, and vocational courses such as electrical training and automotive repairs, masonry, plumbing, carpentry, etc. SPCE is also the only official centre for many international qualifications like the International Computer Driving License (ICDL) and Cambridge Assessment English in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

SPCE Learners				
247,000	52%	92%	96%	2,300
Learners have benefitted since 2006	Female	Learners satisfaction	Learners recommend SPCE	Jobs created 2020-25

Central Asian Faculty Development Programme

As part of local talent development, UCA's Central Asian Faculty Development Programme has provided scholarships to 73 (35 women) Central Asian researchers to pursue their Masters, PhD, and postdoctoral studies at partner universities, including Cambridge, Oxford, Simon Fraser, University of Alberta.

“By creating intellectual space and resources, the University of Central Asia will help turn the mountains that divide the nations and territories of Central Asia into links that unite its peoples and economies, in a shared endeavor to improve their future wellbeing.”

His Highness the Aga Khan

UCA Charter Signing Ceremony, 31 August 2000 Astana, Kazakhstan

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125/1 Toktogul Street, Bishkek,
720001, Kyrgyz Republic

UCA Campus in Naryn
310 Lenin Street, Naryn, 722918,
Kyrgyz Republic

UCA Campus in Khorog
155 Qimatsho Imatshoev Street,
Khorog, GBAO, 736000, Republic
of Tajikistan

SPCE Learning Center in Tekeli
13 Gagarin Street, Tekeli, 041700,
Republic of Kazakhstan