



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ASIA

Tajikistan • Kyrgyzstan • Kazakhstan

CONVOCAATION 2024



GRADUATION CEREMONY PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 15 JUNE 2024

09:30 Tajikistan time, 10:30 Kyrgyzstan time

GRADUATION PROCESSION ENTERS

NATIONAL ANTHEMS

ADDRESS

DR SHAMSH KASSIM-LAKHA
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ADDRESS

PRINCESS ZAHRA AGA KHAN
UCA TRUSTEE

ADDRESS

PROF DR CHRISTOPHER J. GERRY
ACTING RECTOR

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

MR ALI VELSHI
MSNBC

ADDRESS BY CHIEF GUEST, NARYN

ADDRESS BY CHIEF GUEST, KHOROG

VALEDICTORIAN ADDRESS

PRESENTATION OF DEGREES

VOTE OF THANKS

PROF DR MAXIM KHOMIYAKOV
DEAN, SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

GRADUATION PROCESSION DEPARTS

LUNCH

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 17 learning centres across Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Afghanistan.

www.ucentralasia.org

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the UCA community, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Class of 2024 on the occasion of the University's fourth Convocation ceremony. Today, we celebrate the achievements of an exceptional graduating class, comprising individuals from Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Syria and Tajikistan.

UCA, a not-for-profit secular university, remains steadfast in its mission to become one of the leading educational, research, and knowledge hubs in the region. Our goal is to nurture a new generation of Central Asian entrepreneurs, artists, innovators, scientists – those who will set a new bar for quality and leadership in their chosen pursuits. The University is steadily positioning itself as a catalyst for improving the lives of peoples in Central Asia. This progress is made possible through the unwavering support from the Chancellor, His Highness the Aga Khan, the Governments of Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, the Aga Khan Development Network, and our esteemed international partners.

Dear Parents,

Today, we celebrate not only the achievements of the Class of 2024 but also your leadership role in their journey. These exceptional individuals have excelled academically and, over the past five years, have embraced diversity and cultivated a strong sense of community. They understand that learning is a lifelong endeavour, which will serve them well in their chosen professions and career paths. Thank you for entrusting the education of these remarkable individuals who you have nurtured so caringly.

Dear Graduates,

As we commemorate your accomplishments today, we eagerly anticipate hearing about your future successes and the limitless potential for which UCA has prepared you. During your time at UCA, we hope you have gained the courage and insight to ask thoughtful questions, as well as the determination and competence to find their solutions. Stay true to your aspirations and remain humble in your achievements. In the face of challenges, be resilient and grounded in your core values.

The world awaits your talents, and we are proud to have prepared you for your journey.

With my best wishes for your future,

Dr Shamsh Kassim-Lakha
Chairman, Board of Trustees

MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING RECTOR

It is with immense pride and joy that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to each member of the Class of 2024. Today's Convocation ceremony marks a significant milestone in your academic journey. It offers a moment in time to celebrate your achievements and the exciting prospect of what lies ahead. Few occasions hold as much pride and significance for you and for those who have supported you along the way.



At the University of Central Asia (UCA), we are committed to fostering an educational environment that not only imparts knowledge but also nurtures critical thinking, creativity, and a sense of social responsibility. We seek to forge graduates who will become the next generation of innovators, thinkers, researchers and job creators for Central Asia and beyond. The Class of 2024 is no exception, and I am confident that you will rise to the rapidly evolving challenges of the 21st century to help shape bright futures for the mountainous societies which characterise our region.

To the parents of the Class of 2024 - today is not only for the graduates but also for you and your wider family networks, who have served as pillars of strength, support and continuity throughout this journey. Your dedication and sacrifices have made this day possible, and we celebrate this achievement together with you.

Graduates, as you step forward into the next chapter of your lives, carry with you the values and lessons you have learned at UCA from your teachers, your peers and the wider community. Work hard, have fun, pursue your passion and embrace the future with confidence, curiosity, and an enduring commitment to making a positive impact. You can change the world. You can make a difference.

One last thought. Graduation should never mean goodbye. As UCA alumni, I know that you will remain connected in some way to your university. Stay connected with your alma mater and continue to embody the spirit of innovation, learning, resilience, and community that defines UCA. I look forward to meeting you soon and in the meantime, on behalf of our growing Alumni network, I extend my warmest congratulations to you once more.

*Professor Dr Christopher J Gerry
Acting Rector*



UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Bachelor of Arts in Communications and Media

ADINAI MUKAMBETOVA
KYZZHIBEK ZHANIBEKOVA
MADINA SHOGUNBEKOVA
MOHAMAD HACHEM
NILUFAR KARGASOVA
RUSTAM PALLAEV
TAKHMINA ZHUMAKOVA

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

ALEXANDR RUSSIN
ALINA ERKULOVA
AQEEL AHMAD
ARLEN ABDYRASHITOV
AYDANA KUBATOVA
AZAMAT SHIRINSHOEV
AZRA NISAR
DIANA OROZEK KYZY
FARIDUNI NURIDDINZODA
GAINIKAMAL BATAYEVA
GULAMAD AZIZOV
MARKHABO RAKHMATSHOEVA
MEKHRAFRUZ GULAMADSHOEVA
MUKHTARAM SULAIMONOV
MUNIZA HASHIM
SHAHROM SIDDIQZODA
ULUGBEK KARIMOV
ULUK URMATBEKOV
ZHAINAGUL ZHUMANAZAR KYZY






Bachelor of Arts in Global Economics

AKHMED NAZARBEKOV
ALI AKBAR KHAN
AMINA AYOMBEKOVA
DILNOZA MOYONOVA
FAIYOZ ALIMAMADOV
FARHOD SHERZAMONOV
GAVHAR GURMINJOVA
LOLA BAKHTDAVLATOVA
MAMADRIZO MAHMUDOV
MARVORI DAVLATNAZAROVA
MIZHGONA Kholdorbekova
MOHRUKH TALABKHUJA
NURMUHAMAD BUTABEKOV
SAMIRA ODINABEKOVA
SHAHZOD NIYOZMAMADOV
SOHIBEGIM MAMADNAZAROVA
TABREZ SAFARMAMADOV
TAKHMINA IMOMKULOVA

Bachelor of Science in Earth and Environmental Sciences

ADISA DOROBKOVA
ALIMA SHOMAMADOVA
ANUSHERVON JUMAKHONOV
EDGAR MICHAEL NAGAYA WANGIRA
JAVOHIR MIRMASTOV
NADIRA KARATAEVA
NEKRUZ NIYOZMAMADOV
NOZIGUL TIRANDOZOVA
SHAMIMA ALINAZAROVA



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:



