



# AFGHAN RESEARCH INITIATIVE

## Afghanistan Research Initiative

The University of Central Asia announces the second phase of the Afghanistan Research Initiative (ARI), a three-year programme aimed at supporting research, enhancing intellectual capacity by assisting doctoral students, and fostering knowledge networks to address critical issues affecting the country's present and future. ARI focuses on research in the social sciences, humanities, gender studies, and earth and environmental sciences, with a particular emphasis on sustainable development. Southeast Asia is a geography of particular interest. ARI is based at the University's main office in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic.

Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) supported ARI's impactful first phase, which facilitated the training of 18 doctoral students, conducted 22 research projects, and resulted in over 40 publications – significantly advancing our understanding of Afghanistan. Building on these achievements, the second phase will incorporate new elements to enhance our knowledge of the country further.

The University of Central Asia is a private, not-for-profit, secular, regional university founded in 2000 through an International Treaty signed by the Presidents of Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, and His Highness the Aga Khan, ratified by their respective parliaments and registered with the United Nations. The Graduate School of Development is the home for multi-disciplinary research on Central Asia's social, economic, and cultural development conducted by five entities ([www.ucentralasia.org](http://www.ucentralasia.org)).

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## ARI Announces Three New Support Programmes

1. Afghan students in doctoral programmes, especially those in the penultimate years facing funding challenges in completing their dissertation research in the social sciences, humanities, gender studies, and earth and environmental sciences. Grants of up to \$10,000 will be awarded to eligible candidates. Application deadline: 1 November 2025.
2. Afghan scholars in the diaspora or non-Afghan scholars conducting research in the above-mentioned fields and who can engage Afghan students as research assistants in their projects. Grants of up to \$20,000 will be awarded to eligible candidates. Application deadline: 1 November 2025.
3. Non-Resident Research Fellows (up to four positions) who, in addition to their research project, will help form and moderate a discipline-based research network. Application deadline: 15 November 2025.

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