



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ASIA



Brief Profile

The University of Central Asia (UCA) brings the power of education and human ingenuity to the challenges and potentials of mountain communities in Central Asia. Through innovative and relevant research, it is providing access and resources to a growing diversity of learners, and enabling a new generation of graduates to address the needs of the region and drive socio-economic development, while preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of Central Asia.

UCA is one of the world's few regional, fully residential, internationally chartered universities devoting

considerable resources to mountain-based research. It is a secular, private, not-for-profit university founded in 2000 by the Governments of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan. The Presidents of these founding countries are Patrons of the University, and His Highness the Aga Khan is the Chancellor.

In response to the needs of rural mountain communities, UCA has established its three Campuses away from major urban centres. Its three campuses are in Naryn, Kyrgyzstan, Khorog, Tajikistan, and Tekeli, Kazakhstan. They are on the historic Silk Road, and UCA hopes to be at the heart of economic and in-



UCA Naryn Campus



UCA Khorog Campus

tellectual transformation taking place in the region. As a University, it is uniquely positioned to bring together emerging leaders in business, civil society, and public service, and also brings with it the broader commitment and partnership of the Aga Khan Development Network.

School of Arts and Sciences

UCA's undergraduate School of Arts and Sciences began classes in 2016. It offers Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees in Computer Science, and Communications and Media at the Naryn Campus, and Economics, and Earth and Environmental Sciences at the Khorog Campus. The University plans to offer Business and Management and Engineering Sciences at the Tekeli Campus, anticipated to open in 2021.



Admission to the School is based purely on merit, and UCA guarantees financial assistance to all students offered admission. The average contribution of students, towards their tuition, room and board, a laptop computer, health insurance, and numerous facilities is only US \$1400 per annum. This makes education and living at UCA particularly affordable for students from rural communities.

Other programmes of UCA include:

The Aga Khan Humanities Project started in 1997, merged with UCA in 2007, and to date has graduated over 150,000 students from 87 learning centres across Central Asia. It fosters critical thinking and academic writing skills through an integrated humanities curriculum, and delivers resources, training, and courses within a multi-disciplinary framework.

The School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPCE) provides short cycle vocational training as well as numerous courses designed to improve income-generating opportunities. Starting in 2006, over 105,000 students have completed SPCE courses in 12 learning centres across Central Asia and Afghanistan.

The Mountain Societies Research Institute conducts research to enhance the resilience and quality of life of mountain societies, and is committed to advancing the global Sustainable Mountain Development agenda through transformative research, education, and dissemination of findings.

The Institute of Public Policy and Administration fosters innovative and rigorous inquiry into public policy issues related to the socio-economic development of Central Asia. It provides in-depth analysis of current and emerging policy issues facing the region, and works on improving the analytical capacity of governments and civil society to use evidence-based decision-making through professional development.

The Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit advances UCA's mission to help the different peoples of the region preserve and draw upon their rich cultural traditions and heritage as assets for the future.

Profile of Students

Students admitted to UCA have a demonstrated record of academic achievements. They are winners of academic competitions, presidents of student government, passionate advocates for the disadvantaged, talented artists and musicians, award-winning athletes, and enthusiastic volunteers who lend a hand in their communities. While many students joining UCA come from urban centres, more than half are from secondary cities and small villages. Of the 66 students currently at the Naryn Campus, 38% are from the Kyrgyzstan, 33% from Tajikistan, 12% from Pakistan, and the rest from other Central Asian Countries. About 55% of all students at the Naryn Campus are women.

Similarly, of the 79 students admitted to the Khorog Campus in Tajikistan in 2017, 66% are from Tajikistan, 16% from Pakistan, 10% from the Kyrgyzstan, and the rest from other Central Asian countries. About 39% of all students at the Khorog Campus are women.