University of Central Asia Programmes:

Undergraduate School of Arts and Sciences
• School of Professional and Continuing Education
• Graduate School of Development’s Institute of Public Policy and Administration and Mountain Societies Research Institute
• Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit
• Central Asian Faculty Development Programme
• Aga Khan Humanities Project

His Highness the Aga Khan and President Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan sign the founding Treaty in Dushanbe.

His Highness the Aga Khan and President Askar Akayev of the Kyrgyz Republic sign the founding Treaty in Bishkek.

His Highness the Aga Khan and President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan sign the founding Treaty in Astana.
One of the world’s few regional, fully residential, internationally chartered universities devoting considerable resources to mountain-based research.

A secular, private and not-for-profit university founded by the Governments of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) in 2000. The treaty was ratified by the respective parliaments and registered with the United Nations.

Offers an internationally recognised standard of higher education in Central Asia and prepares graduates to contribute leadership, ideas and innovation to the economies and communities of the region.

The mission is to foster the socio-economic development of Central Asia, particularly its mountain societies, while helping the peoples of the region preserve and draw upon their rich cultural heritages as assets for the future.

Award-winning Japanese architect Arata Isozaki and his firm, Isozaki, Aoki & Associates (IAA) developed the design for UCA’s three campuses.

Undergraduates study science in campus laboratories.
WHAT UCA IS LOOKING FOR?

UCA is committed to providing access to university education to the most qualified candidates, regardless of a student’s economic status. We are looking for academically gifted students who have demonstrated their potential for leadership and are passionate about learning both inside and outside the classroom. Students explore Central Asia’s geography, culture, sociology and economy, to better understand their relationship to the world.
“UCA is a family where diverse students like us can be ourselves and share our own experiences, along with getting an education. Diversity is one of our distinguishing features here at UCA.”

Aisha Nugmanova
Aktobe, Kazakhstan
Computer Science
Class of 2022

“...atmosphere at UCA. It is new, beautiful, and we have everything we need to study, live here and succeed in the future.”

Aigerim Dzhaanbaeva
Naryn, Kyrgyzstan
Economics
Class of 2022
## Undergraduate Programme

<table>
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<th>Naryn Campus</th>
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<tr>
<td>Central Asian Studies</td>
<td>Development Studies</td>
<td>Globalisation Studies</td>
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*For more information on Minors, visit [http://www.ucentralasia.org/admissions/undergraduateminors](http://www.ucentralasia.org/admissions/undergraduateminors)*

### Your Academic Pathway

UCA’s five-year degree programme consists of an intensive preparatory programme, followed by a four-year liberal arts core curriculum, rooted in the issues of mountain communities in Central Asia.

At UCA, you will have the opportunity to graduate with a major and minor. You will graduate with either a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or a Bachelor of Sciences (BSc). You can attend any of the University’s three residential campuses in Naryn (Kyrgyzstan), Khorog (Tajikistan) and Tekeli (Kazakhstan, anticipated 2021), based on the major and minor you select. Depending on your selected area of study you can spend at least one semester at another UCA campus.

### Preparatory Programme

#### First Year Programme

The University’s undergraduate education begins with a Preparatory Programme to facilitate students’ success at the international level. UCA specialisations are as comprehensive and complex as those offered at top universities worldwide, where students enter with 12 years of secondary education. The Preparatory Year focuses on English for academic purposes, mathematics and science, including laboratory work, to ensure that UCA undergraduates are on par with students internationally. It is designed by Seneca College in Toronto, Canada, an international leader in university entrance programmes, and taught by experienced faculty with relevant degrees and professional certifications.

*UCA’s preparatory programme students attend career panels in their first year.*
Computer Science

**BSc, Naryn Campus, Kyrgyzstan**

Information and communications technology is the economy’s fastest growing sector globally and regionally, and specialists are in high demand. UCA’s Computer Science programme is designed in partnership with the University of Toronto, Canada, to produce specialists that meet industry standards set by the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the US-based Association for Computing Machinery. The programme of study is supplemented by courses on entrepreneurship, preparing graduates to generate opportunities in Central Asia.

Communications and Media

**BA, Naryn Campus, Kyrgyzstan**

UCA’s Communications and Media programme offers an integrated approach to journalism, new media, public relations, advertising, marketing communications, multi-media design, media production, media law, management, and ethics and social responsibility. Intensive language courses ensure graduates have superior fluency in their native language and in Russian. The curriculum is developed in collaboration with the University of Technology Sydney in Australia. Working in the state of the art UCA Media Studio, students will develop production skills and build a portfolio of work to serve as a calling card when seeking employment.

Earth and Environment Sciences

**BSc, Khorog Campus, Tajikistan**

Responsible natural resource development that will serve as an engine of sustaining growth requires technical skills informed by a solid understanding of environmental, social and cultural issues, and what is needed to spur private sector investment. UCA’s cross-disciplinary programme is science and technology based. It integrates socio-cultural perspectives allowing students to form a knowledge base to engage with complex issues such as extractive industries development, climate change, and food security. The curriculum is developed in collaboration with the University of British Columbia in Canada. This specialisation benefits from the resources of UCA’s Mountain Societies Research Institute.

Economics

**BA, Khorog Campus, Tajikistan**

UCA’s Economics programme equips students with theoretical and quantitative skills and a special understanding of practical microeconomics and enterprise development in Central Asia. The challenging major spans a breadth of subjects including macroeconomics, econometrics, public finance, international trade and economic policy. Designed in collaboration with the National Research University’s Higher School of Economics in Moscow and the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga, Latvia, the programme benefits from the research assets of UCA’s Institute of Public Policy and Administration and strong partnerships with government ministries across the region.
GENERAL EDUCATION IN LIBERAL ARTS

The University’s Core Curriculum is a liberal arts approach to general education that exposes students to a variety of relevant subjects. UCA’s approach is designed to help students develop critical thinking skills. The Core Curriculum is holistic and grounded in the Central Asian context. It allows students to:

- Research to gain knowledge of the universe, society, and of one’s self
- Become more familiar with a variety of subject areas in the humanities, science and maths, and their practical value in everyday life
- Develop a cosmopolitan understanding of the world around them
- Address some of the more challenging issues facing the region.

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMME

UCA’s Co-operative Education Programme is mandatory for undergraduate students. It is an innovative immersion initiative that creates opportunities for you to experience the working world, domestically and internationally, via structured job placements in three consecutive summers during your five-year university education. This programme is developed in partnership with the University of Victoria in Canada.

“The preparatory programme has prepared us for future studies by allowing us to develop a sense of responsibility, immerse ourselves in an English campus environment and improve our theoretical knowledge.”

Dias Kabykenov
Taldykorgan, Kazakhstan
Class of 2021

In Year 1, you will complete the Preparatory Programme and hone your skills in English, maths and science.
In Year 2, you will complete courses in the core curriculum designed to ensure you develop a strong liberal arts foundation.

In Year 3, you will complete 10 common prerequisite courses for either the Bachelor of Science or the Bachelor of Arts majors.

Courses within chosen major:
- Computer Science
- Communications & Media
- Earth & Environmental Sciences
- Economics

In Year 4 and part of Year 5, you will take approximately 10 mandatory courses and five electives to complete the requirements of your major and you will take five courses to complete your minor.

Finally, in Years 3, 4, and 5 you will complete three different practice-based learning projects dedicated to making you job and career ready.

Liberal Arts
Courses to develop critical thinking and introduce cross-disciplinary topics of study.

Pre-Requisites
Prerequisite courses in the arts or science tracks based on major.

MAJOR
Additional major courses and courses within chosen minor:
- Central Asian Studies
- Development Studies
- Globalisation Studies
- Computer Science
- Communications and Media
- Earth & Environmental Sciences
- Economics

Sports facilities are available year round at the sports dome.

Common spaces in student dormitories.
Education at the University of Central Asia is heavily subsidized, and once admitted on merit, a student’s financial constraint is not a barrier to quality education. UCA’s generous financial aid program ensures that admission is based solely on merit, and the ability to pay fees is not a consideration during the selection process. Once a student is admitted, financial assistance is guaranteed. This assistance takes the form of scholarships, grants, and interest free loans.

Fees are paid in the national currency where the Campuses are located, and fixed for the entire period of undergraduate study. Tuition fees at UCA are the equivalent of US$5000 per year, which is less than most universities in Central Asia, as well as China, Turkey, and Russia. Moreover, as mentioned above, depending on the financial circumstances of the student, tuition fees can be subsidized or waived for deserving and meritorious students.

Unlike most other universities in the region where students have to arrange for their own housing and meals, UCA provides a unique residential experience for their undergraduate students. Its modern on-campus facilities include attractive accommodations, meals, laptop, health insurance, and other facilities, and cost the equivalent of $3000 for the academic year, which is also eligible for subsidy.

The average contribution students make during the academic year for all expenses, including tuition, accommodations, and meals, is less than $1400, or $140 per month. For most students, even if they were to live at home, this cost is likely to be higher.

Full scholarships are also awarded to meritorious students from Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan) on a competitive basis.

"The faculty at UCA are truly professional, amazingly supportive and tremendously inspiring. The work they have done can be seen in the growth of every student throughout the year."

Suiuna Dadybaeva
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
Computer Science
Class of 2021
"UCA provides opportunities to learn about the challenges of mountain communities, not only through our interdisciplinary curriculum but also by learning, living in the mountains, and gaining first-hand experience."

- Erjaz Uzoqov
Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Computer Science
Class of 2021

Frequently Asked Questions

WHEN AND HOW DO I APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID?

Financial aid applications are available to all shortlisted candidates, and students apply annually for assistance. Financial Aid decisions are made by a committee and not by any one individual.

WILL MY FINANCIAL SITUATION ADVANTAGE OR DISADVANTAGE ME IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

Admission to UCA is based on merit. The University is committed to admitting the best and brightest students from both urban and rural areas of Central Asia, regardless of economic status. No student is denied admission to UCA on financial grounds.

HOW DOES A UCA STUDENT LOAN WORK?

Interest free loans are offered in the national currency. Annual administration fee of two percent (2%) is assessed from the year of loan received. The students have a two-year grace period after graduation to begin repayment, and have 10 years following this grace period to repay their loan.

"UCA brings the power of education and human ingenuity to the economic and social development of mountain societies."

- His Highness the Aga Khan, Chancellor of UCA

During the course of study, undergraduates can participate in student clubs.

Throughout the year, the student life team organises academic and co-curricular activities.

Eraj Uzoqov
Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Computer Science
Class of 2021
HOW TO APPLY?

Key dates (subject to change)

Apply to UCA online, or download the application form and send with relevant documents by email or in person.

16 February 2018    Early Bird Application Deadline (no application fee)
2 March 2018        Regular Application Deadline (Application fee US$15)
25 March 2018       The UCA Admissions Exam

KEY DATES FOR SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS

March-April 2018    Shortlisted candidates to submit supporting documents:
                    1. Recommendation forms
                    2. Financial aid application

April 2018          Interviews

PRE-UNIVERSITY PROGRAMMES

UCA offers pre-university programmes to prepare students to pursue higher education. Secondary students are encouraged to participate in these enrichment programmes, which are designed to upgrade critical academic areas and prepare students for the competitive admissions process.

January 2018        Online webinars: Applying to UCA
January 2018        Winter Upgrading Programme for Grade 11 students
July 2018           Summer Upgrading Camp for Grade 10 students

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Visit www.ucentralasia.org/admissions to apply today!

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