



UNIVERSITY
OF CENTRAL ASIA



DEVELOPING MOUNTAIN SOCIETIES WITH A WORLD CLASS EDUCATION

A Guide to the University of Central Asia's Undergraduate Education



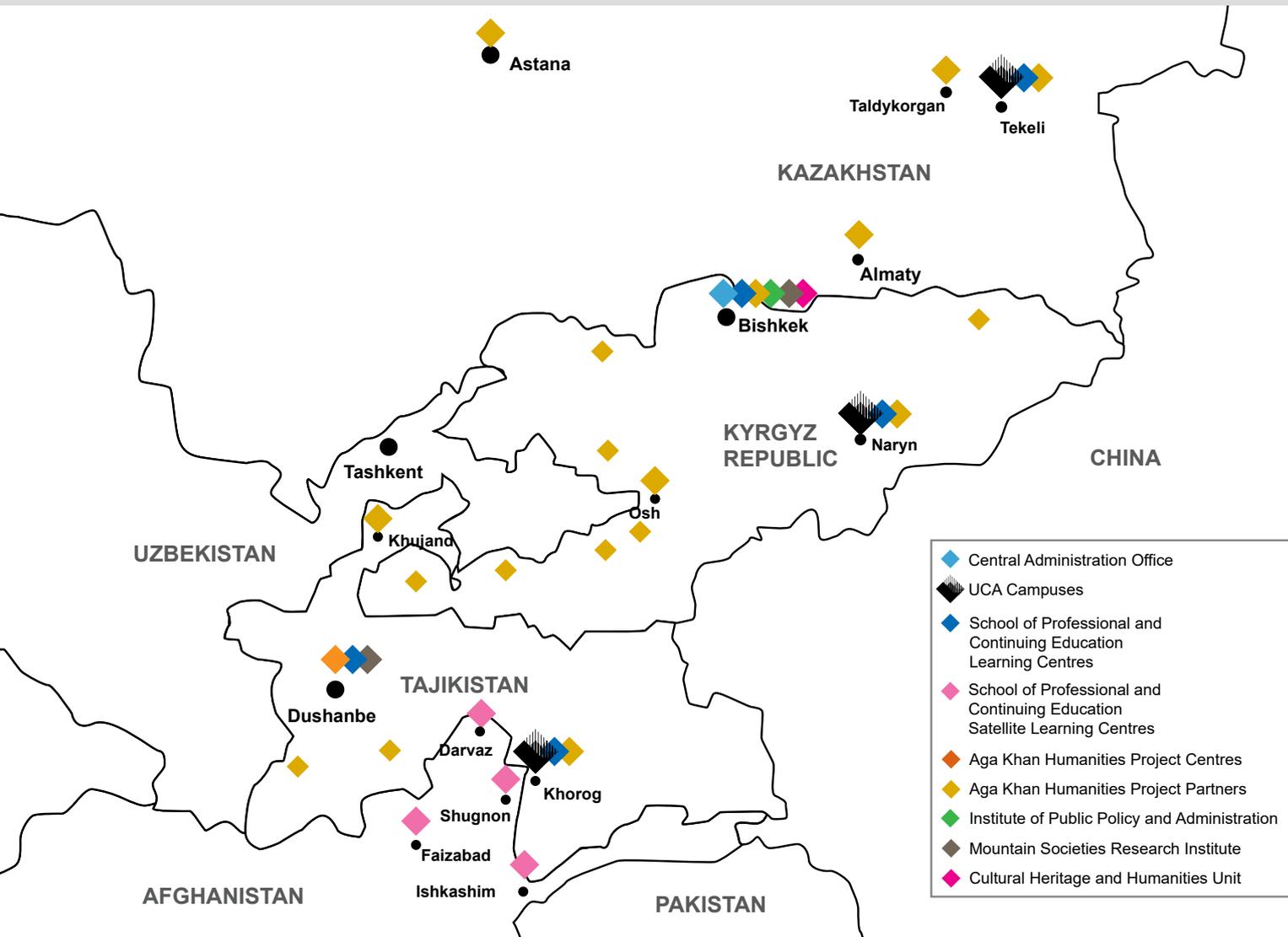
His Highness the Aga Khan and President Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan sign the founding Treaty in Dushanbe.



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



His Highness the Aga Khan and President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan sign the founding Treaty in Astana.





Biorhythmic lighting, believed to help improve concentration and increase productivity, will simulate natural light indoors on campus.

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

His Highness the Aga Khan
Chancellor, University of Central Asia

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ASIA

The University of Central Asia (UCA) was founded in 2000. The Presidents of Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Kazakhstan, and His Highness the Aga Khan signed the International Treaty and Charter establishing this secular and private University; ratified by the respective parliaments, and registered with the United Nations. The Presidents are the Patrons of UCA and His Highness is the Chancellor. UCA's mission is to promote the social and economic development of Central Asia, particularly its mountain societies by offering an internationally recognised standard of higher education, and help the different peoples of the region to preserve and draw upon their rich cultural traditions and heritages as assets for the future.

UCA consists of its Undergraduate School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Professional and Continuing Education, the Graduate School of Development's Institute of Public Policy and Administration and Mountain Societies Research Institute, the Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit and the Aga Khan Humanities Project.

State of the art library resources and services.



Why Choose UCA?

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 strong students who have demonstrated their potential for leadership and are passionate about learning both inside and outside the classroom. Students will explore Central Asia's geography, culture, sociology and economy, to better understand their relationship to the world.



WORLD-CLASS CURRICULUM

- Curriculum emphasising critical thinking across disciplines, research methods, quantitative reasoning, and writing, with a focus on ethics and community engagement
- Exposure to a unique combination of liberal arts, science, and technology
- Experiential education through team learning projects that apply academic concepts to real world issues
- Case Learning to strengthen problem solving skills
- Curriculum developed in partnership with leading universities with specific career paths in mind
- Programmes benchmarked to international professional certification bodies
- Specialisations relevant to Central Asia's current and future labour market needs
- Internship opportunities to improve students' employment prospects upon graduation

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD OF EDUCATION

- Faculty with PhDs from reputable universities, engaged in research relevant to regional issues
- Experts in their fields, with 90 per cent of faculty holding PhDs
- English language instruction, with immersion programmes to create fluency
- The smallest student faculty ratio in Central Asia (9:1)

VIBRANT STUDENT LIFE

- A student-centred environment in-class and on campus
- High quality facilities and residence at each of UCA's three campuses
- Opportunity to participate in social and academic clubs
- Unique study abroad opportunities
- Robust cultural, sports and social programmes in a setting of stunning natural beauty
- Student Life Advisors and Faculty Mentors providing academic and personal support



Hands-on learning at the Science Laboratories



Dr Elmira Kuchumkulova, Head of the Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit, UCA

MOUNTAIN BASED EDUCATION

- Curriculum encouraging students to unlock the economic potential of Central Asia's mountainous regions
- Intellectual hub dedicated to research on issues relevant to mountain societies
- Conservation of Central Asian cultural heritage, traditions, and history

MAKING YOU JOB READY

- Paid summer internships to gain work experience with leading companies
- Career planning services and mentorship throughout your time at UCA
- A focus on ethics and entrepreneurship to create self-starters
- Quality language education that makes students marketable to the national and global economy



Dr Dietrich Schmidt-Vogt, Director of the Mountain Societies Research Institute, UCA

AFFORDABLE EDUCATION

(see page 10 for more information)

- Merit based admission; no student will be denied admission based on financial need
- Generous financial aid with merit-based scholarships, needs-based grants, and student loans on accessible terms.
- Access to student loans that provide manageable terms for young graduates
- A fixed yearly tuition payable in national currency



Dr Roza Kazakbaeva, English Faculty, UCA Faculty-Student Mentor

STATE OF THE ART FACILITIES

- State of art classrooms and laboratories
- Advanced IT technology with wireless internet connectivity across campus
- Spacious dormitory rooms that can be configured for privacy
- Ample study, recreational areas and sports facilities
- Library connected to rich international collections and databases
- Sheltered walkways, secure facilities
- Fully-accessible for students with physical disabilities



Bunyod Tusmatov, Maths Faculty, UCA Faculty-Student Mentor

Undergraduate Programme

WHAT UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES UCA OFFERS?

	Naryn (2016)	Khorog (2016)	Tekeli (2019)
BSc	Computer Science	Earth and Environmental Sciences	Engineering Sciences
BA	Communications and Media	Economics	Business and Management
Minor	Central Asian Studies	Development Studies	Globalisation Studies

YOUR UCA ACADEMIC PATHWAY

At UCA, you will have the opportunity to graduate with a major and minor. UCA is the first university in Central Asia to offer integrative majors and minors.

Depending on the area of study, you will have the opportunity to spend at least one semester at an

other campus. After five years, you will graduate with either a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or a Bachelor of Science (BSc). You can attend any of the University's three residential campuses in Naryn, Kyrgyz Republic (opening in 2016); Khorog, Tajikistan (2017); and Tekeli, Kazakhstan (2019), based on the major and minor you select.

GENERAL EDUCATION IN LIBERAL ARTS

UCA's Core Curriculum is a liberal arts approach to general education that exposes students to a variety of relevant subjects.

UCA's general education liberal arts approach is designed to help students develop critical thinking skills. UCA's core curriculum is holistic and grounded in the Central Asian context. It allows students to:

- improve presentation skills and develop strong writing skills;
- understand research and appreciate how to gain knowledge of the universe, society, and of 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; and
- address some of the more challenging issues facing the region.

PREPARATORY PROGRAMME

UCA's five-year undergraduate education begins with a mandatory Preparatory Programme to ensure that students will succeed in studies at an international level. UCA specialisations are as comprehensive and complex as those offered at the best universities world-wide where students enter with 12 years of secondary education. The Preparatory Year is critical in ensuring that UCA graduates will be on par with the best students internationally.

Designed by Seneca College, Toronto, Canada, an international leader in university entrance programmes, and taught by faculty with appropriate degrees and professional certification, the Preparatory Year focusses on English for academic purposes, Mathematics and Science (including laboratory work).



Common Space in Students Dormitories

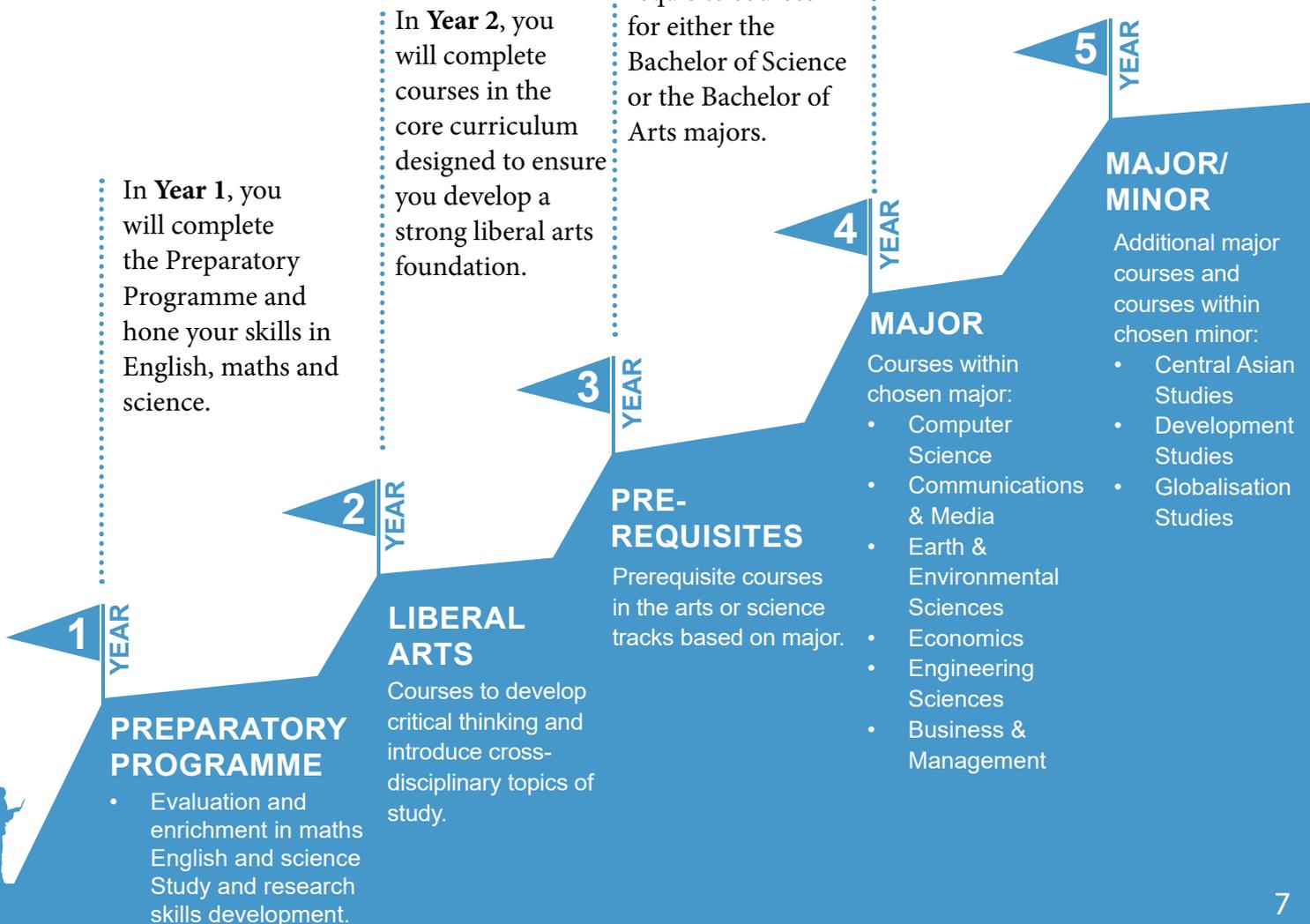
Finally, in **Years 3, 4, and 5** you will complete three different practice-based learning projects dedicated to making you job and career ready.

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

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.

In **Year 2**, you will complete courses in the core curriculum designed to ensure you develop a strong liberal arts foundation.

In **Year 1**, you will complete the Preparatory Programme and hone your skills in English, maths and science.



Undergraduate Education



MAJORS, NARYN CAMPUS

Computer Science, BSc

Information and communications technology is the economy's fastest growing sector globally and regionally. Specialists in these fields are in high demand.

UCA's Computer Science programme is designed to provide specialists that meet industry standards set by the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the Association for Computing Machinery (USA). Supplemented by courses focused on entrepreneurship, it also equips graduates to generate opportunities in Central Asia.



Communications & Media, BA

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 that graduates have superior fluency in their native language, and in Russian.

Work in the state of the art Media Studio will develop production skills, and enable them to present a portfolio of media products that will serve as their calling card when seeking employment opportunities.



UNDERGRADUATE MINORS

UCA has crafted two minors that provide an opportunity for a more in-depth exploration of complex societal issues. The minors stretch the students' intellectual horizons and ability to integrate a diversity of knowledge, and as such contribute to students' job or further education opportunities.

Central Asian Studies, Naryn Campus

The minor in Central Asian Studies is an interdisciplinary programme with courses on history, culture, literature, economy, social structure, international context, and other topics within national and regional contexts. Taught by specialists in each field, it aims to provide the foundations for rigorous inquiry into critical issues confronting the

MAJORS, KHOROG CAMPUS

Earth & Environmental Sciences, BSc

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 of what is needed to spur private sector investment. UCA's cross-disciplinary programme is science and technology based. It integrates socio-cultural perspectives that form a knowledge base to engage with complex issues such as extractive industries development, climate change, and food security. Developed in collaboration with a consortium of universities, this specialisation also benefits from the knowledge assets of UCA's Mountain Societies Research Institute.



Economics, BA

The programme equips graduates with theoretical and quantitative skills to be professional economists who also have a special understanding of practical microeconomics – enterprise development in Central Asia. This is a challenging programme that spans the breath of subjects such as macroeconomics, microeconomics, econometrics, public finance, international trade, economic policy, small and medium enterprise. It benefits from the substantial research assets of UCA's Institute of Public Policy and Administration with its strong partnerships with government ministries across the region. The curriculum is designed in collaboration with renowned universities which are leaders in undergraduate economics education.



countries of Central Asia within the context of new global realities. The minor is informed by the work of UCA's Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit.

Development Studies, Khorog Campus

The minor in Development Studies builds on unique assets: the experience of the world's largest private development agency - the Aga Khan Development Network, and its partners; and UCA's undergraduate majors and research institutes. The minor will offer an interdisciplinary exploration of development as a complex analytical issue, and as a field of professional endeavor. It will provide the analytical and technical skills essential to become an internationally competitive development professional.





Tuition & Financial Aid

A university education is one of the most important investments that a student and family can make. A degree from a quality university significantly influences earning potential. UCA offers a world-class education that opens horizons and career pathways, and it comes at a high cost. One of UCA's founding principles as a private, not-for-profit institution is that no admitted student will be denied an education because of inability to pay. UCA is committed to sharing the cost of education with every student who is admitted.

Student tuition represents a fraction of the total cost of attendance: some 80 percent of the cost per student is subsidized by UCA. Financial support to students of this magnitude are common to world class private institutions such as Harvard

and the deficit is covered through the generous contribution of patrons and donors.

UCA's tuition fees are \$5,000 annually (payable in national currency equivalent). Full room and board and other fees are \$3,000 annually. In total \$8,000 per year*. UCA fees are significantly lower than the cost of comparable education at universities in China, Russian and Turkey and when compared to the highest quality universities in Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan. However, UCA understands that some students and families will be able to pay only a portion of the \$8,000 annual fee. UCA offers a combination of scholarships, grants and interest free loans to make university education accessible to all, irrespective of ability to pay.



* Your total fee includes the following:

- Tuition fees for instruction
- Textbooks and instruction materials; Laptop computer
- Residence; Meals
- Health Plan; Fitness centre, sports, recreation
- Individual tutorials and counselling

Registrar Anna Hughes walking through the admissions process with a potential student.



Spacious dormitory rooms that can be configured for privacy with attached bathroom and shower facilities.

UCA's fees are all-inclusive and payable in national currency equivalent

- Tuition and Fees **will not increase** (in US dollar terms) over your 5 years at UCA
- UCA **will support** students with needs-based grants, merit based scholarships and interest-free student loans

- 1 Needs-sensitive Grants
- 2 Merit based Scholarships
- 3 Interest Free Student Loans: repayable over 10 years with payment starting two years after graduation.



Depending on the evaluation of need and merit, UCA may fund **up to 90%** of the cost of education through grants, scholarships and interest free loans. Confident that its graduates will find quality employment, UCA student loans will have highly favourable repayment terms.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

UCA has worked with a global set of university and industry partners to ensure its students benefit from curriculum that is global in nature but relevant to the region. Various countries have generously contributed to the development of UCA's curriculum and facilitated relationships with their national universities or research institutes. Private companies globally have also partnered with UCA by providing research, training, and advisory services to support the development of the University's six major and three minor areas of study.





HOW TO APPLY?

1. **Submit a completed UCA Application Form with relevant documents by 18 March 2016 including:**
 - Official mark sheets from Grade 10 and the first two quarters of Grade 11. If you are currently a university student, you must submit your university transcript as well;
 - A copy of a government-issued photo ID or Passport;
 - Photograph (3 cm x 4 cm) of yourself taken in the past three months; and
 - A receipt of the non-refundable application fee of US\$15 in national currency.
2. **If your application is complete, an email will be sent to you with your Application Number, and the Test Centre address and time that you will write the UCA Admissions Exam on 3 April 2016.**
3. **Shortlisted candidates invited to submit supporting documents by 29 April 2016 including:** (1) personal statement (2) recommendation forms; (3) evidence of awards received; and (4) financial aid application.

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

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

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