



UNIVERSITY
OF CENTRAL ASIA



CONVOCATION 2025

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

GRADUATION CEREMONY PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 21 JUNE 2025

10:30 – 12:25

GRADUATION PROCESSION ENTERS

NATIONAL ANTHEMS

ADDRESS

DR. SHAMSH KASSIM-LAKHA

CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ADDRESS READ OUT

HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE RAHIM AGA KHAN V

CHANCELLOR

ADDRESS

PROF. DR. CHRISTOPHER J. GERRY

RECTOR

ADDRESS BY CHIEF GUEST, NARYN

ADDRESS BY CHIEF GUEST, KHOROG

VALEDICTORIAN ADDRESS

PRESENTATION OF DEGREES

UCA SILVER JUBILEE ANNOUNCEMENT

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 Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, and His Late Highness Aga Khan IV; ratified by their respective parliaments and registered with the United Nations. The Presidents are the Patrons of the University, and His Highness Prince Rahim Aga Khan V is the Chancellor.

UCA's mission is to promote the social and economic development of Central Asia, particularly its mountain communities, by offering an internationally recognised standard of higher education, and enabling the peoples of the region to preserve their rich cultural heritage as assets for the future.

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 entire University of Central Asia (UCA) community, I warmly congratulate the Class of 2025 on the University's fifth Convocation. Today, we celebrate the achievements of an exceptional group of graduates from Central Asia and beyond. You come from diverse backgrounds yet share a common dedication to knowledge, learning, purposeful action and lifelong friendship.

UCA was established as a private, not-for-profit, secular institution through the vision of our late Chancellor, His Highness the Aga Khan IV. His aim was simple yet powerful: to bring quality education to empower individuals to shape their own futures and to enhance the quality of life of in Central Asia, especially its mountain societies. Our current Chancellor, His Highness the Aga Khan V, continues to guide UCA towards becoming a leading centre for education, research, and innovation.

We are grateful to the governments of the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan for their continued support and partnership. We also deeply appreciate the contributions of the Aga Khan Development Network and our international partners, whose commitment has been critical to achieving our goals.

Today we also honour the families and friends of our graduates. Your support, sacrifices, and encouragement have been essential to their success, and we share in your pride and joy.

Graduates, your education at UCA has prepared you not only academically but also ethically and morally. You leave here with the core values of our institution: integrity, service, humility, perseverance, and respect for diversity. Let these values serve as a compass in all you do.

The world awaits your talents and dedication. Move forward with confidence, resilience, and compassion. We are immensely proud of you and are confident that you will make a positive impact on your communities and beyond.

Congratulations and my very best wishes for your continued success.

Dr Shamsh Kassim-Lakha
Chairman, Board of Trustees

MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Class of 2025,

This is your day — and I couldn't be prouder to celebrate it with you.

You arrived at UCA as students. Today, you leave as graduates: thinkers, leaders, doers, and change-makers. You've passed exams, delivered presentations, written essays, completed internships, tackled big ideas — and perhaps most importantly, you've grown. You've laughed, cried, persevered, built friendships, and made our UCA community stronger through your presence.



This university has never been just about lectures, tutorials, GPAs, or coursework. UCA is about preparing people to lead with purpose and integrity — especially in a region that urgently needs your creativity, courage, and compassion.

To the families and friends here today — thank you. Your love, support, and belief in these graduates are behind each challenge they have confronted and each opportunity they have seized, as they've made their way towards the milestone we celebrate today.

To our graduates — as you move on and benefit from the chance to reflect on your time here, I urge you to carry forward the values you've lived at UCA: curiosity, courage, conviction, and a willingness to learn and to listen. Do so, with the enduring spirit of generosity I witness each time I visit our campuses. For the world of 2025 doesn't just need your skills — it needs your character.

And remember: this isn't the end of your UCA journey. It's the beginning of your life as alumni — as lifelong members of a growing, global, and proud University of Central Asian community. Help us make our alumni network as strong, diverse, and resilient as the community of students, faculty, staff, and researchers who bring our campuses, learning centres, and offices to life across Central Asia and Afghanistan. Wherever you go, carry UCA with you — and keep its spirit alive in all you do.

Congratulations, Class of 2025 and good luck!

Professor Dr Christopher J Gerry
Rector

Bachelor of Arts in Communications and Media

AIDA ASANOVA
ANASTASIA KHAVANSKAYA
ERBOL SOVETALY UULU
FARANGIS BOBJONOVA
FARZONA AKHMEDOVA
KAIRAT BERDISHALIEV
FINNLEY MACDONALD
MANIZHA TURDIEVA
MAYGUNA ALIBEKOVA
MEHRANGEZ SAIDMAMADOVA
MUNISA BAIRAMBEKOVA
MUSTAFO MUMINSHOEV
NAFISA KHUDONAZAROVA
SHUKRONA MAMADAYOZOVA
SULHIYA ABDURASULOVA
UMED QURBONBEKOV

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

AELINA DANIAR KYZY
AISHA TOICHIEVA
AIZADA BERDIBEKOVA
AIZHAMAL ZHETIGENOVA
AKYL TASHTANALIEV
ATIULLAH KHAN NIAZI
BAISTAN TASHKULOV
ELDAR ULANOV
ELNAZAR ULANBEK UULU
ERMEK ILIKESHOVA
ILKHOMZHON SIDIKOV
ISKENDER MAZHITOV
JASURBEK SADIEV
MUNIS SAIDRAHMONOV
RAMIL SALIHAR
RAUF ALIBAKHSHOV
SHOKHRUKH DAVLATMAMADOV
TARIQ AZIZ
UMAR NUROV
UMIDBEK ULMASOV
ZAKIR HUSSAIN MURADI

Bachelor of Arts in Global Economics

AMIN PIRMAMADOV
ASLAN DAVLATBEKOV
DILOFARID SHERJONOVA
DILRABO RAIMOVA
FAKHIRA BAIG
FARHOD AKRAMOV
FARYAL NAYAB
FAWAD AHMADI
MAJID MARODBEKOV
MAVLUDA MARAMBEKOVA
MIZHGONA GULOMALIEVA
OZODABEGIM SHOHZODAEVA
SAMAD IQBOLSHOEV
SUDOBA AZIMSHOEVA

Bachelor of Science in Earth and Environmental Sciences

AMINA KALANDARBEKZODA
AZIZ MAMADSALIMOV
DAVLAT DAVLATOV
KAMAL UD DIN
LOIQ AMONBEKOV
MUHAMMADSHARIF ISMOILOV
NAJIBA MAQBULSHOEVA
NAZARKHOTUN ANOYATSHOEVA
NIGINA ISMATOVA
REZABEGIM SHOLAMOVA
RUSLAN RIKAMOV
SHAFOAT JAFOEVA
SHUKRONA ALINAZAROVA
SHUKRONA MULLOEVA

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:



