



UNIVERSITY
OF CENTRAL ASIA

H A N STUDENT B 2026 2027 K

Introduction

How to Use This Handbook

Welcome to the UCA Student Handbook. This handbook is designed to help students easily find essential information and guidance throughout their university journey. It provides an overview of key departments and services that students may need to contact for support, assistance, or answers to their questions. Each section contains brief information about the relevant department, its role, and the services it provides.

To help you access additional support, each section includes:

- ◆ Useful links – Follow the links provided for more detailed information and additional resources.
- ◆ Contact details – At the end of each section, you will find the contact information of the responsible staff members for further assistance.

We hope this handbook will serve as a useful guide and help students navigate university resources more effectively.

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Message from the Rector



“Economics and data science are powerful disciplines in their own right. Brought together, they offer something particularly valuable: the ability to ask important questions about how economies and societies work, to investigate those questions rigorously, and to use evidence to inform better decisions.”

the way you see the world, the questions you ask and the possibilities you imagine for yourself and for others.

On behalf of the entire University community, I congratulate you on taking this important step. I wish you every success in your studies, and I look forward to seeing what you achieve, both during your time with us and in the years ahead.

Welcome to UCA. We are delighted that you are here.

Dear Students,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the University of Central Asia and, especially, to the inaugural cohort of our Master of Science in Economics and Data Science programme.

You are joining a programme that has been carefully conceived and developed, but whose character, traditions and achievements are still to be established. You will help define them – and so – you are not simply the first students of this programme; you are also among its founders.

Our region faces profound challenges and opportunities arising from technological change, shifting labour markets, environmental pressures, economic transformation and the pursuit of more inclusive and sustainable development.

As our inaugural cohort, you have an additional responsibility and opportunity. Your experiences, ideas and feedback will help us strengthen the programme for those who follow. I encourage you to approach that role with openness, ambition and generosity towards one another.

A university education, particularly at postgraduate level, should be about more than acquiring knowledge and qualifications. It should change

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Gerry'.

Professor Christopher Gerry
Rector, University of Central Asia

Message from the Programme Director

Dear Students,

Welcome to the Master Programme in Economics and Data Science, and congratulations on being its first cohort.

Many colleagues spent the better part of a year designing it: faculty at IPPA and across UCA, external reviewers, and practitioners from the institutions many of you work in. Every course was argued over.

The result treats economics and data science as one discipline rather than two, taught by people who use these methods in their own research on this region. I am very proud of it, and just as curious to see what you will do with it.

The next two years will not always be comfortable. You will be asked to write code before you feel ready, to defend an argument you are not yet sure of, and to change your mind in public. That discomfort is the point. It is where the training happens, and it is why graduates of programmes like this one are trusted with decisions that others are not. Turn up curious and the rest will follow.

This handbook covers the practical side: how the programme is organised, what we expect of you and what you may expect from us. When it does not answer your question, write to me or to the programme office. No question is too small, and we are here to help you succeed.

I look forward to getting to know each of you.



“Central Asia is not short of difficult policy questions, and it is not short of data either; ministries, surveys, satellites and markets generate more of it every year.

What is scarce are people who can take a hard question, find the right evidence, and turn it into an answer a decision-maker can act on. That is what this programme exists to produce.”



Dr Anwar Naseem

Associate Professor of Economics,
Programme Director, MSc in Economics and Data Science,
University of Central Asia



About UCA

The University of Central Asia (UCA) is a world-class centre for knowledge and learning, connecting isolated rural communities with the global community and building human capital needed for modern economies and stable governance.

The mission of UCA 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's undergraduate programmes are located in world-class residential campuses in Naryn, Kyrgyzstan, and Khorog, Tajikistan, near the Tien Shan and Pamir mountains. In response to the needs of rural mountain communities, UCA has established its Campuses away from major urban centres. They are on the historic Silk Road, and UCA hopes to be at the heart of the economic and intellectual transformation taking place in the region.

A private, not-for-profit, secular university, UCA was founded in 2000 through an International Treaty signed by the Presidents of Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Kazakhstan, and His Late Highness the Aga Khan, ratified by their respective parliaments and registered with the United Nations. In addition, UCA brings with it the broader commitment and partnership of the Aga Khan Development Network, one of the largest private development agencies in the world.

Graduate School of Development

The Graduate School of Development (GSD) at the University of Central Asia is a multidisciplinary centre for research, postgraduate education, and professional development, dedicated to addressing the social, economic, environmental, and cultural challenges facing Central Asia.

Bringing together expertise from the economic and social sciences, environmental sciences, humanities, and cultural studies, GSD advances knowledge, informs public policy, and strengthens institutional and professional capacity across the region. Its work focuses on four interconnected priorities: climate change and resilience; quality of life and inclusive prosperity; community engagement and cultural heritage; and sustainable development.

Research and Development

Research is central to GSD's mission. Since 2012, its researchers have produced more than 200 publications, including peer-reviewed articles, working papers, policy reports, and books, contributing to both international scholarship and evidence-based policymaking in Central Asia.

GSD collaborates with academic institutions, governments, civil society, and international development organisations, including the World Bank, UNDP, GIZ, and the European Union. Through applied research, policy dialogue, and knowledge exchange, the School connects academic inquiry with practical solutions to regional development challenges.

Executive Education

GSD's [Executive Education](#) programmes provide professionals, managers, and institutional leaders with practical knowledge and skills to respond to emerging regional challenges. Its portfolio spans five thematic areas: economic development and public policy; climate resilience and environmental sustainability; digital transformation and cybersecurity; leadership and institutional development; and higher education excellence. Programmes combine academic expertise with practice-oriented learning, supporting professional development, institutional effectiveness, and innovation across Central Asia.

Postgraduate Studies

The introduction of postgraduate education represents a significant milestone in UCA's development as a research and graduate university.

The [MSc in Economics and Data Science](#), launched in autumn 2026, is UCA's first Master's degree programme. It equips students with advanced economic, quantitative, and analytical skills to address complex development challenges through rigorous research and evidence-based decision-making.

Building on this foundation, UCA is developing two additional postgraduate programmes:

- ◆ **MSc in Climate Change Adaptation**, focusing on climate resilience, environmental sustainability, and development in mountain regions.
- ◆ **MA in Heritage, Culture and Society in Central Asia**, examining the region's cultural heritage, identities, and social transformations.

Together, these initiatives reflect UCA's commitment to expanding advanced education and developing the next generation of researchers, policymakers, and professionals in Central Asia.

Research Divisions and Initiatives

GSD brings together five specialised divisions and initiatives:

- ◆ Institute of Public Policy and Administration (IPPA);
- ◆ Mountain Societies Research Institute (MSRI);
- ◆ Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit (CHHU);
- ◆ Aga Khan Humanities Project (AKHP);
- ◆ Afghanistan Research Initiative (ARI).

Through their combined expertise, regional partnerships, and international collaborations, these entities contribute to GSD's mission of generating knowledge and promoting sustainable and inclusive development across Central Asia.

Course Descriptions

MEDS 5103 Statistics I

‘Statistics I’ course equips students with the tools to interpret, evaluate and apply data in real-world policy and economic settings. Each week opens with a policy or economic question: ‘Is a relationship real or noise?’, ‘Did a reform change the average outcome?’ and works backward to the statistical tool needed to answer it, using real economic data throughout. Students actively engage in analysing uncertainty, drawing inferences, and constructing statistical models to inform evidence-based decision-making. The first half of the course builds a solid foundation in probability and statistical inference, tested at the midterm; the second half puts that foundation to work through simple and multiple regression, culminating in the judgment to assess whether a regression-based study is credible. Emphasis is placed on developing a critical understanding of statistical findings and effectively communicating results in policy-relevant contexts. This course strengthens students' analytical confidence and prepares them to be thoughtful users and producers of statistical evidence across economics domains.

MEDS 5124 Research Design and Policy Analysis

This course provides an introduction to research methods, research design, and applied policy research. It equips students with practical skills to formulate research questions, critically assess evidence, design qualitative and quantitative studies, develop questionnaires and other research instruments, and prepare sound research proposals. The course also introduces key approaches to policy analysis. Students will learn how to analyse policy issues, assess and criticise scholarly materials, and develop policy papers and research proposal using clear and effective writing and storytelling techniques.

The course balances methodological foundations with practical application, with particular attention to public policy issues in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia. Examples will draw on topics such as governance, natural resources, labour migration, digitalisation, and public sector reform. Through practical exercises and assignments, students will develop research and analytical skills relevant to careers in government, think tanks, NGOs, international organisations, and academia.

MEDS 5111 Microeconomics

This course introduces students to contemporary microeconomics using the approach developed by Samuel Bowles and Simon Halliday in Micro-

economics: Competition, Conflict, and Coordination, published in 2022 by Oxford University Press. The course examines how individuals, firms, workers, and governments make decisions under scarcity and how these decisions interact within markets and institutions. Unlike traditional microeconomics courses that focus mainly on supply and demand, this course emphasises the roles of power, incentives, incomplete contracts, bargaining, inequality, and strategic interaction in shaping economic outcomes. Students will learn how markets operate, why they sometimes fail, and how institutions and policies influence efficiency, fairness, and social welfare. The course combines theoretical models, real-world examples, and policy discussions, helping students apply microeconomic reasoning to contemporary Central Asian issues such as labour markets, market power, inequality, environmental problems, and risk

MEDS 5136 Programming and Data Analysis

This course introduces Python programming with emphasis on data analysis. The NumPy open-source Python library is employed for numerical and scientific computing in this course. Pandas, an open-source Python library, is used for working with datasets (analysing, cleaning, exploring, and manipulating data). The data visualisation is implemented with the Matplotlib Python library. Students are guided through laboratory assignments designed to give them practical, real-world experience. Students are encouraged to design, implement, and evaluate small-scale projects in teams of up to three people.

MEDS 5101 Mathematical Foundations for Data Analysis

Mathematical Foundations for Data Analysis develops the mathematical tools students need for graduate study in economics and data science. The course builds a rigorous but accessible foundation in linear algebra, multivariable calculus, integration, unconstrained and constrained optimisation, selected numerical methods, and discrete-time economic dynamics. Economic applications provide the primary context, while selected data-science and machine-learning connections show how the same mathematical structures support quantitative modelling and data analysis. Python is integrated into the two weekly sessions to implement, verify, visualise, and extend methods that have first been developed analytically. The course prepares students for subsequent work in microeconomics, macroeconomics, econometrics, data science, and machine learning without duplicating the probability and inference material taught in Statistics I.

Student Research and Master's Thesis

Research is an integral part of the MSc Economics and Data Science (EDS) programme at the University of Central Asia (UCA). Students are encouraged to engage with contemporary economic and public policy challenges, particularly those relevant to Central Asia, and to develop the analytical skills necessary to produce rigorous, evidence-based research. The Master's thesis represents the culmination of students' academic and research training. It provides an opportunity to apply economic theory, quantitative methods, and data science techniques to an independently developed research question. Students are expected to produce original, policy-relevant research using real-world data, demonstrating critical thinking, methodological competence, and the ability to communicate findings to both academic and policy audiences.

Research Themes and Supervision

Students will have the opportunity to explore research themes aligned with the expertise and ongoing work of UCA's Graduate School of Development (GSD) and its Institute of Public Policy and Administration (IPPA). An indicative list of research themes and faculty interests will be shared with students to support topic selection. These themes will continue to evolve in response to emerging research priorities and regional development challenges. Students may also propose their own research topics, subject to academic approval and feasibility. Each student will be assigned an academic supervisor who will provide guidance throughout the research process, from developing the research question and methodology to preparing the final thesis. Students are responsible for managing their research progress, meeting agreed milestones, and maintaining academic integrity.

Thesis Development and Assessment

The Master's thesis is developed during the second year of the programme, across Semesters 3 and 4. Students will undertake independent research under the guidance of an academic supervisor, culminating in the submission and public defence of their thesis before the State Attestation Commission. Detailed information on thesis requirements, research milestones, supervision arrangements, submission procedures, and assessment criteria

is provided in the MSc Economics and Data Science Master's Thesis Handbook. All research must comply with UCA's academic integrity and research ethics requirements. Research involving human participants requires approval from UCA's Ethics Review Committee before data collection begins.

Research Dissemination and Publication Opportunities

UCA encourages students to contribute to academic and policy discussions beyond the classroom. Students whose research demonstrates strong academic quality and policy relevance may have the opportunity to further develop their Master's thesis for publication through IPPA's Working Paper Series, subject to academic review and applicable publication requirements. This pathway provides an opportunity for students to disseminate their findings, contribute to the growing body of research on Central Asia, and engage with wider academic and policy communities.

Contact information

Eran Edirisinghe

Dean of Research

 eran.edirisinghe@ucentralasia.org

Anwar Naseem

Research Lead

 anwar.naseem@ucentralasia.org

Registrar's Office

The Registrar's Office serves as a central administrative hub for all academic records, enrolment processes, and academic policy enforcement.

Responsibilities include maintaining accurate student academic records, managing course registration and scheduling, overseeing graduation requirements, and issuing official academic documents such as transcripts, diplomas, and enrolment verifications.

The Registrar's Office coordinates the admission process for the UCA programmes, working closely with academic departments and the Admissions Committee to ensure transparent and merit-based selection.

The Registrar's Office upholds the confidentiality and security of student records in compliance with UCA's data protection policies and relevant legal regulations.

Students may request services such as:

- ◆ Official transcripts (electronic and paper formats);
- ◆ Enrolment and degree verification letters;
- ◆ Replacement of lost or damaged diplomas.

Course registration occurs at the beginning of each semester. Registration dates, deadlines, and instructions are communicated to students in advance by the Registrar's Office.

Students are responsible for ensuring timely registration. Late registration may result in penalties or inability to enroll in preferred courses.

All changes to student status, including:

- ◆ Leaves of absence;
- ◆ Programme withdrawals.

Must be processed through the Registrar's Office with appropriate documentation and approvals.

The Registrar's Office monitors academic progress, verifies student eligibility for academic honours and graduation, and ensures compliance with UCA's academic policies.

If You Are Struggling Academically

In order to receive a master's degree, a student must successfully complete a minimum of 120 credits, including all required core and elective courses in accordance with the degree requirements.

Know the Rules

To familiarize yourself with the University's academic rules, policies, and procedures, visit the [Know the Rules](#) section on the Registrar's Office website, where you can find all academic policies and related regulations.



Additional information on **graduation requirements**, requests for **academic documents** (transcripts and letter of enrollment), **key academic dates**, and Registrar's **Office contact information** is available on the Registrar's Office website.

Contact information



Registrar.ucentralasia.org



CAO, BC Avangard, Tower B, 3rd floor, room 306



registrar@ucentralasia.org

Centre for Teaching, Learning, and Technology Team and Functions

The Centre for Teaching, Learning, and Technology (CTLT) plays a strategic role in promoting evidence-based, innovative, sustainable, and contextually relevant teaching practices at UCA. By supporting all educators, CTLT fosters transformational and meaningful learning that contributes directly to student success. The Centre manages key academic processes such as course feedback, which allows students to share their views and constructive comments to improve teaching and learning; it also develops and maintains the official [Course Catalogues](#) and oversees the effective use of Moodle, UCA's Learning Management System.

Course Feedback by Students

Course feedback is a process that gives students the opportunity to share their thoughts and constructive feedback about the courses they are taking. The purpose of this feedback is to support the continuous improvement of teaching and learning at UCA.

When is Feedback Collected? Course feedback is collected toward the end of each course, depending on its duration:

- ◆ **Short-term courses:**
Evaluation takes place one week before the midterm exam.
- ◆ **Full-semester courses:**
Evaluation takes place two weeks before the final exams.

How to Complete the Evaluation

- ◆ Evaluation forms are available directly on the Moodle course page.
- ◆ A Course Feedback announcement will be posted on the course page and will remain available for one week.
- ◆ Students should open the course feedback link to access and complete the evaluation form
- ◆ The evaluation is completely anonymous – the Centre for Teaching, Learning, and Technology (CTLT) cannot access individual responses or identify the students who submitted them.

Contact information



Ctlt.ucentralasia.org



CAO, BC Avangard, Tower B, 3rd floor, room 304

Academic Operations Office

Academic Operations Office (AOO)

The Academic Operations Office (AOO) serves as the primary operational and administrative hub for Master's students at the Central Administration Office (CAO). The AOO acts as your first point of contact for day-to-day administrative guidance, class scheduling logistics, and general operational support throughout your studies.

How the AOO Supports Graduate Students:

- ◆ **Day-to-Day Operational Support:**
Assistance with class schedules, room allocations, and local campus access in Bishkek (BC Avangard).
- ◆ **Initial Administrative Guidance:**
Help navigating university administrative procedures and directing you to specialised offices (e.g., Registrar, IT, Finance).
- ◆ **Coordination & Referrals:**
Facilitating communication between students, faculty, and university service departments.
- ◆ **Programme Events, Guest Lectures & Academic Communications:**
Coordination of academic events and circulation of announcements, programme updates, and key academic information.

Postgraduate Programmes Administrative Coordinator (PPAC)

Students are encouraged to contact AOO through official communication channels provided by their programme. For Master's students, the Postgraduate Programmes Administrative Coordinator (PPAC) is your dedicated primary point of contact. The PPAC assists with day-to-day operational queries regarding the evening schedule, coordinates administrative workflows with instructors, and ensures smooth communication between graduate cohorts and management. When submitting an enquiry, please include your full name, programme of study, and a detailed prescription of your question of request.

! The AOO provides administrative guidance and coordination but does not replace the academic responsibilities of faculty members or the decision-making authority of programme leadership and other authorised university bodies.

Contact information

 CAO, BC Avangard, Tower B, 3rd floor, room 306

Nazgul Osmonalieva

Academic Operations Manager

 nazgul.osmonalieva@ucentralasia.org

Kanyshai Makeshova

Postgraduate Programmes Administrative Coordinator (PPAC)

 kanyshai.makeshova@ucentralasia.org

Elnura Omurbekova

Senior Administrative Coordinator

 elnura.omurbekova@ucentralasia.org

Aliia Kaiumova

Unit Operations and Project Coordinator

 aliia.kaiumova@ucentralasia.org

Daniyar Sadykov

Unit Operations and Academic Events Coordinator

 daniyar.sadykov@ucentralasia.org

Moodle:

Online Learning Hub

What is Moodle?

Moodle is the university's online learning management system (LMS). It serves as a digital classroom where students can access course materials, submit assignments, view grades, receive announcements, and communicate with instructors. Students use Moodle throughout their studies to support their learning and stay connected with their courses. Becoming familiar with Moodle at the beginning of the academic journey helps students manage their coursework more effectively.

How to Access Moodle

Students can access Moodle through the university Moodle website: www.ucagsdlms.org. Login credentials are provided at the start of the semester, allowing students to use the same account details across UCA systems, including e-mail, Moodle, and other platforms. After logging in, students will see a dashboard displaying the courses they are enrolled in.

What Students Can Do on Moodle

Moodle provides access to essential learning resources and course activities, including:

- ◆ **Course Materials** – Access lecture slides, readings, videos, and other learning resources shared by instructors.
- ◆ **Course Information** – View course outlines, schedules, assessment requirements, and other important course information.
- ◆ **Assignment Submission** – Submit assignments, reports, and projects directly through Moodle before deadlines.
- ◆ **Grades and Feedback** – View grades and receive feedback from instructors on submitted work.
- ◆ **Course Feedback** – Complete course feedback to help improve teaching and learning.
- ◆ **Communication** – Receive announcements and communicate with instructors through Moodle messaging tools.
- ◆ **Interactive Activities** – Participate in online quizzes, polls, and discussion forums created by instructors.



Deadlines Still Apply

Technical issues do not automatically extend assignment deadlines. If a technical problem prevents submission on time, students should contact the IT Helpdesk immediately and keep a record of the issue (for example, a screenshot or email confirmation).

Quick Tips for Getting Started

- ◆ Log in to Moodle during the first week of the semester to make sure the account is working properly.
- ◆ Check Moodle regularly for course updates and announcements from instructors.
- ◆ Submit assignments before deadlines to avoid last-minute technical issues.
- ◆ Use a stable internet connection when uploading files or completing online activities.
- ◆ Use a stable internet connection when uploading files or completing online activities.

Who to Contact for Help

Different Moodle issues require support from different teams. Contacting the right person will help resolve issues more quickly.

Technical Issues

(Examples: *Unable to log in*) contact CTLT:

 ctlc@uccentralasia.org

Course & Content Issues

(Examples: *Unclear assignment instructions*

- *Grade query or discrepancy* • *Course structure or schedule questions*), contact your course Instructor.

UCA Libraries: Facilities and Services

The University of Central Asia (UCA) has two campus libraries serving the School of Arts & Sciences (SAS) as well as a Library in Bishkek serving the Graduate School of Development (GSD), which comprises five entities. The Libraries provide access to a wide range of print and electronic resources that supports academic learning, teaching and research.

Students, faculty & Staff can access library collections and resources, both print and digital, on campus as well as remotely through the library's online discovery service.

The Library delivers information literacy sessions for all cohorts and conducts orientation sessions for new students, introducing them to library resources, services and essential research support. The Library also provides reference and circulation services.

Detailed information about the services, along with subject guides, library hours, and help tab is available through the dedicated UCA library webpage – [About UCA Library](#).

- ◆ Access Home Page of Library:
<https://libguides.ucentralasia.org/ucalibrary>
- ◆ Discovery: Online Catalogue
<https://ucentralasia.on.worldcat.org/advancedsearch?databaseList=>
- ◆ E-Journals (Periodicals/Research Publications)
<https://ucentralasia.on.worldcat.org/atoztitles/browse/collections>

Working Hours

Khorog Campus		Naryn Campus	
Mon-Thu	10:00–22:00	Mon-Fri	10:00–22:00
Fri	13:00–22:00	Sat-Sun	15:00–22:00
Sat-Sun	15:00–22:00		

Contact information



Library@ucentralasia.org



libguides.ucentralasia.org/ucalibrary

Co-operative Education Programme

Career Services for MS Students

The University of Central Asia (UCA) supports MS students in preparing for successful professional careers through career guidance, professional skills development, employer engagement, and access to employment, internship, and research opportunities.

The Co-operative Education Department provides career development support throughout students' studies, helping them connect their academic learning with professional opportunities and preparing for the transition from graduate education to employment, further study, or research.

Career Guidance and Planning

Individual career consultations help students explore career pathways, identify professional interests, set career goals, and develop plans aligned with their academic qualifications, existing experience, competencies, and aspirations.

Career Readiness and Professional Skills Development

Students can access workshops and guidance on CV and résumé writing, cover letters, job applications, interview preparation, LinkedIn profiles, and professional networking. Additional activities may focus on workplace communication, teamwork, leadership, negotiation, and project management.

Employer Engagement and Employment Opportunities

The Co-op Program team facilitates connections with employers across the private sector, government institutions, international organizations, NGOs, research institutions, and other relevant sectors. Depending on availability, students may be informed about suitable vacancies, internships, graduate trainee programmes, employer presentations, and career networking events.

Internships

Where opportunities are available, students may receive information about graduate-level internships, consulting assignments, industry-based projects, and other opportunities to apply their knowledge and develop practical experience.

Further Study and Research Careers

Students interested in academic or research careers can access information and guidance on doctoral programmes, research fellowships, scholarships, academic career pathways, and relevant professional and academic networks.

Alumni Networking and Mentoring

Through alumni engagement activities and Alumni Association, students may have opportunities to connect with UCA alumni and other professionals to gain career insights, seek advice, explore professional pathways, and expand their networks. Activities may include alumni talks, networking events, alumni reunions, mentoring opportunities, and other initiatives that foster connections between current students and the UCA alumni community.

Graduate Career Outcomes

UCA encourages MS graduates to maintain contact with the University and participate in graduate destination surveys. Information on employment, further study, and career progression helps UCA understand graduate outcomes and continuously improves its academic programmes and career services.

Student Engagement

MS students are encouraged to engage with the Co-op and Career Department from the beginning of their studies, participate in relevant career development activities, and make use of available resources to prepare for their professional futures.

Information about career services, upcoming activities, and relevant opportunities will be communicated through UCA's designated communication channels.

Contact information

Myrza Karimov

Head of Co-operative Education

 myrza.karimov@ucentralasia.org

Elvira Sagyntay kyzy

Co-operative Education Manager

 elvira.sagyntay@ucentralasia.org

Shamsiya Alibakhshova

Graduate Placement Advisor

 shamsiya.alibakhshova@ucentralasia.org

International Office

The International Office supports UCA's international engagement by working with partner institutions and coordinating specific international programmes and opportunities. It works to build global connections that enrich students' academic experience and foster intercultural understanding.

International Opportunities

Students may have access to international academic and professional development opportunities coordinated through the International Office. These may include short-term academic programmes, summer schools, workshops, exchanges, and other opportunities offered through UCA's international partnerships and networks.

Available opportunities vary from year to year. Eligibility requirements, selection criteria, funding arrangements, application procedures, and deadlines are communicated through the relevant calls for applications.

UCA–Cambridge Scholarship Programme

UCA, in partnership with the Cambridge Trust, offers a fully funded scholarship programme for eligible candidates to pursue Master's and PhD studies at the University of Cambridge.

The scholarship programme is offered annually in fields aligned with UCA's academic and research priorities. Eligibility criteria, priority fields, application requirements, and deadlines are announced each year through the relevant call for applications.

How to Get Involved

Students interested in international opportunities are encouraged to:

- ◆ Attend information sessions and presentations with partner universities organised by the International Office to learn about their programmes and opportunities;
- ◆ Follow UCA announcements via student email and other official communication channels for the latest calls for applications;
- ◆ Contact the International Office for information on programmes and opportunities coordinated through the Office.

Contact information



International@ucentralasia.org



CAO, BC Avangard, Tower B, 3rd floor, room 309

Expected response time (if applicable): within 2 working days.

IT Support

UCA's Information Technology (IT) Department is here to support you throughout your academic journey. Most students visit the IT offices on campus for direct assistance. However, you can also contact the IT team through email address below to request IT services, report technical issues, or seek assistance with any UCA IT-related matter.

Campus IT Helpdesk Contacts:

- ◆ CAO Bishkek: helpdesk.bishkek@ucentralasia.org
- ◆ IT Support Team members will be available at the IT offices to provide in-person support during working hours. (from 09:00 am 06:00 pm, during week days).

IT Policies

To ensure the secure and responsible use of IT resources, all students are expected to review and comply with UCA's IT Policies.

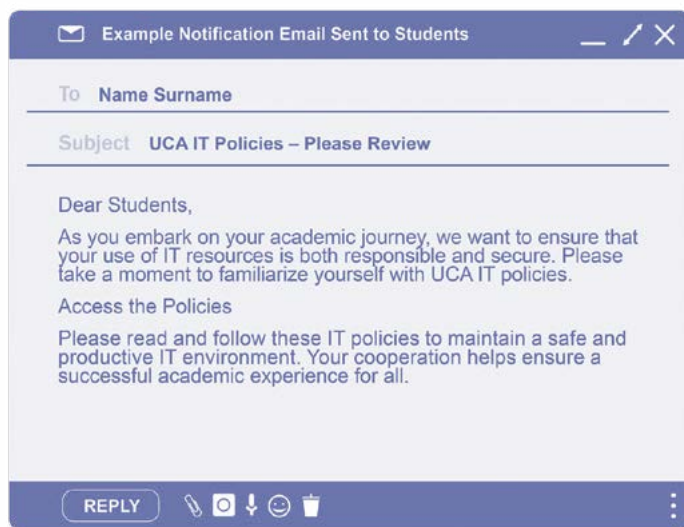


The IT Policies Moodle course contains all student-related IT policies and standard operating procedures (SOPs) and is accessible to all students. To ensure the secure and responsible use of IT resources, all students are expected to review and comply with UCA's IT policies.

The UCA IT Policies are available to all students on the GSD Moodle site: <https://ucagsdlms.org/course/view.php?id=53>



IT policies are reviewed and updated periodically. Whenever significant changes are made, the IT Policies Moodle course will be updated, and all students will receive a notification email informing them of the changes.



Contact information

 helpdesk.bishkek@ucentralasia.org

Finance and Functions

Tuition Fees & Payment Schedule

The annual tuition fee for the Master's Programme is USD 6,000 for students from the founding countries and USD 12,000 for international students. Scholarships are awarded on a merit-based basis in accordance with the University's scholarship policy.

Tuition payments are due prior to the beginning of each semester according to the student's standard payment schedule. Students who require an individual payment schedule should contact Student Finance in advance. Students are expected to comply with their agreed payment schedules and meet all tuition payment obligations in accordance with the applicable University policies and procedures.

Tuition payments may be made by bank transfer using the University's bank details or through a banking application. Instructions for payment through the banking application and University's bank details will be sent to students by email.

Contact information

*For any questions regarding tuition fees, payment schedules,
or student accounts, please contact:*



student.finance@ucentralasia.org

Administration and Functions

The Administration Department supports students with visa-related matters.

Kyrgyz Visa Information

International students coming to study at UCA require a long-term student visa. (type “S”). Please be advised that applying for any other type of visa (business/tourist/religious etc.) Will cause problems during subsequent visa extensions as these can neither be changed to a study visa, nor can be extended for the length of a year.

Type “S” visa must initially be obtained by submitting an online application for a 3-month visa and then extended for 1 year upon arrival to Kyrgyzstan.

Visa application process should begin at least 30 days prior of the desired date of arrival to Kyrgyzstan. The student’s passport must be valid for at least 2 years from the issue date of the visa application.

As immigration regulations often change in a short notice, potential visitors are advised to check on the current situation before departure (<https://mfa.gov.kg/en>).

The passport and visa information listed in this document applies to holders of ordinary passports.



Non-compliance with the immigration procedures may result in administrative fines and deportation to the country of origin. Repeated violation may have serious legal consequences.

Obtaining Electronic Student Visa of the Kyrgyz Republic

To obtain a Kyrgyz Study e-visa students coming to study to Kyrgyzstan need an invitation letter from the inviting organization. Administration department will provide the Letter of Invitation upon receiving a copy of the passport of the visitor and other necessary details. To obtain electronic visa to Kyrgyz Republic, please go to the web page http://www.evisa.e-gov.kg/step_1.php?Lng=en.

Step 1: Indicate your country, passport type and visa type (description of various visa types and categories is available at: http://www.evisa.e-gov.kg/get_information.php?Lng=en). You have to select a Study visa (type “S”).

Step 2: Fill out organisation data:

Organisation name: University of Central Asia

State registration number: 19278-3300-Y-e (IY)

Inviting organisation address: 310 Lenin Str., Naryn

After filling out information on the inviting organisation, please fill in the personal data section.

1. Passport Information:
 - a. Full Name,
 - b. Date of Birth,
 - c. Passport Number,
 - d. Date of Issue;
2. Gender
3. E-mail address

Once this step is complete, you will receive an e-mail with your personal reference number and a link that takes you to Step 3.

Step 3: Additional data section, please indicate following information:

1. Contact phone number
2. Contact information of the inviting party (University of Central Asia, +996 770 822 901)
3. Place of stay in Kyrgyzstan (310 Lenin street, Naryn)
4. Purpose of visit
5. Planned date of entry
6. Planned date of exit

Step 4: Photo and Documents, please upload the following documents:

1. High quality, digital, passport size photo on the white background (3.5 cm x 4.5 cm)
2. Scan of passport (1 MB)
3. Written invitation from the inviting party (Administration will provide petition letter from UCA)
4. Copy of agreement between the applicant and the educational organization (Education Contract, i.e. Study agreement to be provided by the Registrar Office at UCA)
5. Other additional documents (Previous visa, Student acceptance order (to be provided by the Registrar Office at UCA)
6. Certificate from the tax authority about the absence of debt (Administration will provide)

7. Certificate from the social fund about the absence of debt (Administration will provide)
8. UCA Treaty and Charter (Administration will provide)
9. UCA bachelors license (Administration will provide)

Step 5: Preview and confirm the application.

Step 6: Payment section.

You can make online payment by credit/debit card. The card is not required to be under your name. Make sure that your card is open to international transactions.

Please, make sure the filled information is correct. In case of any mistakes, your e-visa application will be rejected.



There is no refund of visa fee in case of rejection of e-visa!
Please, avoid buying the air ticket before getting the notice of approval of your electronic visa application.

Please read the step-by-step instructions in case the system returns your application.

If your application is rejected by the system, you will receive a message to your email address specifying further actions: such as making corrections, upload the necessary package of documents or make payment.

After receiving such message, please proceed to the official website (evisa.e-gov.kg), select the “Services” section – “Check the status” (continue the application), enter the reference number (which you received on your email address). You will be redirected to the page where you can correct your application. Lines that require corrections will be marked in red. You will need to click on the “tick” icon, make changes and click on the same icon again. After making changes and checking the correctness of all data, you need to click the “Submit” button.

If you have completed all the above steps correctly and successfully, your application will be resubmitted for review.

Additionally, you can send an email to e-visa@mfa.gov.kg, indicating your reference number on the Subject of your email and attaching all documents you have previously submitted via the website.



The application review period is up to **14 working days**.
It starts from the moment of correcting all the necessary
information or adding the necessary package of documents.
Delay may occur depending on citizenship of visa applicants.

Diplomatic Representation of Kyrgyz Republic Abroad

More diplomatic missions can be found on the MFA site:

<https://mfa.gov.kg/en>.

Country	Address	Contact
Afghanistan	Darul Aman Road Between Gohardshad and Rana Universities Kabul, Afghanistan	Tel.: (+93) 20 221 1976 Email: krembkabul@gmail.com
India	A-10/11, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, Delhi, 110057, India	Tel.: (+91) 11-2614 9582 (+91) 11-2614 8019 Email: dehli@kgzembind.in
Iran	Iran, Tehran, 12, 5th Naranjestan Alley, Pasdaran Str.	Tel.: (98-2) 283-03-54 Fax.: (98-2) 228 17 20 Email: krembiri@mydatak.com
Pakistan	F10-1, No. 163, 35 Str. Islamabad	Tel.: (92 51) 221 21 96 Fax: (92 51) 221 21 69 Email: kyrgyzembassy@dsi.net.pk
Tajikistan	Dushanbe, 67, Student Str.	Tel.: (992) 372 242611 Email: kyremb@tajnet.com
Turkey (this applies to Syrian citizens as well)	Turan Gunes Bulvari 571 Cadde No. 21 06450 Yildiz, Ankara, Turkey	Tel.: (+90) 312 491 3506 (+90) 312 491 3507 Fax: (+90) 312 491 3513 Email: info@kgembassy.org.tzor embjyrgyz@gmail.com Website: www.kgembassy.org.tr

Citizens of the countries indicated below can enter the Kyrgyz Republic without a visa for the period of 30 days. Meanwhile, if a citizen of one of the below-listed countries comes to the Kyrgyz Republic to study, Study Kyrgyz e-visa is still required.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Republic of Austria | 34. Singapore |
| 2. Australia | 35. The Slovak Republic |
| 3. Kingdom of Belgium | 36. United States of America |
| 4. Bosnia and Herzegovina | 37. Turkey |
| 5. Republic of Bulgaria | 38. Republic of Finland |
| 6. United Kingdom of
Great Britain and
Northern Ireland | 39. French Republic |
| 7. Hungary | 40. Republic of Croatia |
| 8. Federal Republic of Germany | 41. Republic of Montenegro |
| 9. The Greek Republic | 42. Czech Republic |
| 10. Kingdom of Denmark | 43. Swiss Confederation |
| 11. Israel | 44. Kingdom of Sweden |
| 12. Iceland | 45. Republic of Estonia |
| 13. Ireland | 46. Andorra |
| 14. Spain | 47. Argentina |
| 15. Italian Republic | 48. Brazil |
| 16. Canada | 49. Vatican |
| 17. Republic of Cyprus | 50. Vietnam |
| 18. The Republic of Korea | 51. Kingdom of Thailand |
| 19. Republic of Latvia | 52. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia |
| 20. Republic of Lithuania | 53. Mexico |
| 21. Principality of Liechtenstein | 54. United Arab Emirates |
| 22. Grand Duchy of Luxembourg | 55. San Marino |
| 23. Republic of Malta | 56. Philippines |
| 24. Republic of Malta | 57. Republic of Albania |
| 25. Principality of Monaco | 58. Brunei Darussalam |
| 26. Kingdom of the Netherlands | 59. Republic of Indonesia |
| 27. Kingdom of Norway | 60. Republic of South Africa |
| 28. New Zealand | 61. Republic of Chile |
| 29. Republic of Poland | 62. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela |
| 30. Portuguese Republic | 63. State of Qatar |
| 31. Republic of Romania | 64. State of Kuwait |
| 32. Republic of Serbia | 65. Sultanate of Oman |
| 33. Republic of Slovenia | 66. Kingdom of Bahrain |
| | 67. Japan |

A list of countries that do not require Kyrgyz visa:

1. Belarus
2. Kazakhstan
3. Russian Federation
4. Tajikistan
5. Azerbaijan
6. Armenia
7. Georgia
8. Moldova

Post-Arrival Registration

Upon arrival in Kyrgyzstan, all international students (regardless of their visa requirements) need to register their arrival with the Kyrgyz Ministry of Internal Affairs or its territorial offices within 3 working days of arriving in Kyrgyzstan. Once visa extended on the territory of Kyrgyz Republic timely registration of visa will be required.



Please note that each student is responsible for the registration process.

If a visitor fails to register in the required period, an administrative fine on the amount of up to 15,000 KGS applies.

Extension of Kyrgyz Electronic Visa

The process of applying for an extension to a year-long study visa is time-consuming, thus, this should be initiated at least 1 month before the expiration date of the previous visa.



Please note that each student is responsible for his/her visa extension.

As part of the student visa extension process, students are required to obtain and submit the following medical documents:

- ◆ Medical Report on HIV Antibody Testing (Certificate of Absence of HIV/AIDS) (HIV Test Centre: 8 Logvinenko Street, Bishkek);
- ◆ Medical Certificate (Form 086/U) (obtained through the government clinic at the place of registration);
- ◆ Mandatory Medical Insurance (obtained through the government clinic at the place of registration).

All medical documents must be valid at the time of submission. Students are advised to arrange the required medical examinations and insurance coverage well in advance to avoid delays in the visa extension process.

Students are responsible for arranging and covering all costs associated with the required medical examinations, certificates, and medical insurance.

After receiving the visa extension, students must extend their registration within 3 calendar days.

Visa and Registration Violations

There is a fine of 5,500 KGS (~60 USD) for visa and 5,500 KGS (~60 USD) registration overdue.

Contact information

For Visa and Travel matters please contact:

 Visa.kg@ucentralasia.org

 UCA CAO Bishkek

Aijan Moldobaeva

Administrative Manager

 aijan.moldobaeva@ucentralasia.org

 +996 770 822 866

Nazira Kadralieva

Administrative Manager

 nazira.kadralieva@ucentralasia.org

 +996 770 822 104

Nurai Degenbaeva

Travel and Visa Officer

 nurai.degenbaeva@ucentralasia.org

 +996 770 822 562

Student Life Team

Student Life and Student Support

UCA supports students in becoming positive, respectful and socially responsible members of the University community. For Master's students, Student Life focuses on supporting student wellbeing, engagement, community-building and access to University services throughout the programme.

As Master's students are not residential students, engagement with Student Life may take place remotely as well as during scheduled visits to UCA campuses. Students may have opportunities to participate in academic and professional events, leadership and community engagement activities, student initiatives, networking opportunities, and selected University-wide activities.

The Student Life Team also serves as a point of contact for students who require guidance or support related to their experience at UCA and can direct students to the appropriate University service where necessary.

Student Conduct

All Master's students are expected to follow UCA's Student Code of Conduct and other applicable University policies. These expectations apply whenever students participate in UCA-related activities, including classes, online learning environments, campus visits, field activities, University-sponsored events, and interactions with members of the UCA community.

Students are expected to act with integrity and professionalism, respect the rights and dignity of others, contribute to a safe and inclusive environment, comply with applicable laws and University policies, and avoid behaviour that disrupts academic or University activities or places others, University property, or the reputation of UCA at risk.

Concerns or alleged violations of the Student Code of Conduct will be addressed in accordance with the University's established procedures.

During Campus Visits

Master's students are non-residential students and are not assigned accommodation in UCA residence halls. When visiting a UCA campus for classes, workshops, academic activities, events or other programme requirements,

students are expected to follow applicable campus safety, security, access, IT and facilities policies.

Students should carry their UCA identification while on campus and follow instructions provided by Campus Administration, Security, Student Life or programme staff. Information concerning access to facilities, meals, transportation, working hours, emergency procedures and other arrangements relevant to a particular visit will be communicated separately when required.

Students requiring assistance during a campus visit may contact the Student Life Team or the designated GSD programme representative.

Contact information

Azat Orozbaev

Senior Manager of Student Affairs

 Azat.orozbaev@ucentralasia.org

University Counsellor

The University Counsellor provides confidential support to help students manage personal, emotional, and academic challenges during their university journey. The counselling service is available to support students' overall wellbeing and help them navigate different situations that may affect their studies or daily life.

UCA counsellor signs Informed Consent Form during the first session, it ensures confidentiality and space to build trust and therapeutic relationships.

Exceptions to confidentiality may occur only in limited circumstances where there is a risk of serious harm to the student or others, or when disclosure is required by law. In such cases, the counsellor will, whenever possible, discuss the need to share information with the student before taking action.

To request counselling sessions, students are encouraged to book a specific time via email or Teams messaging. Counsellor conducts sessions in Kyrgyz, English and Russian languages. Counseling sessions are 50 minutes long, online via Teams.

Contact information

Nurzhan Alymkanova
University Counsellor in Naryn
 Nurzhan.alymkanova@ucentralasia.org

