

Central Administration Office in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

About UCA

The University of Central Asia (UCA) is an internationally chartered university dedicated to advancing the sustainable development of mountain societies through education, research, innovation, and regional engagement. UCA works to improve the resilience, prosperity and quality of life of mountain communities across Central Asia and beyond. Founded in 2000 as a private, not-for-profit and secular institution, UCA was established through an International Treaty signed by the Presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and His Late Highness the Aga Khan IV.

UCA's mission is to promote the social and economic development of Central Asia, particularly its mountain regions, through internationally recognised education, applied research, innovation and the preservation of cultural heritage. Today, UCA combines undergraduate and emerging postgraduate education with research, policy engagement and professional learning to address the opportunities and challenges facing mountain societies in a rapidly changing World.

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KEY RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2025

Research on Food and Climate Security

A study by researchers from the Mountain Societies Research Institute (MSRI), A. Caiserman, A. Qadamov, R. Sidle, and A. Khan, was published in Agricultural Systems, a prestigious Quartile 1 journal. Combining satellite crop mapping, farmer interviews, and climate projections, the study examined agricultural strategies, groundwater pressure, and climate adaptation in Bamyan, Afghanistan. The findings provide valuable evidence for developing more sustainable farming practices and strengthening food security in climate-vulnerable mountain communities.

Research with Global Visibility

Research involving UCA researcher H. Navruzshoev on declining snowfall, glacier health, and meltwater resources in the northwestern Pamirs was published in *Communications Earth & Environment*, a prestigious Quartile 1 journal within the Nature Portfolio. This high-profile publication strengthens UCA's international research visibility, while its findings have important implications for water security and climate adaptation across Central Asia.

Fostering the Global Mountain Dialogue

UCA played a key role as a partner in the international conference *Global Mountain Dialogue for Sustainable Development: Towards the Bishkek+25 Summit*, hosted by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. The conference brought together delegates from more than 50 countries and around 30 international organisations. UCA led several sessions on mountain research, sharing expertise on environmental change, water resources, human mobility, and green energy and reinforcing its role in sustainable mountain development.

Advancing UCA's Partnership with FAO

UCA secured a USD 96,525 research grant from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), further advancing the partnership between the two institutions. Principal Investigator Zarina Elikeeva of the Institute of Public Policy and Administration is leading a nationwide study examining women's participation in Kyrgyzstan's agrifood trade. The findings will provide evidence to strengthen inclusive trade policies and targeted support programmes.

Science Driving Community Resilience

MSRI researcher Vitalii Zaginaev made a significant contribution to community safety by successfully predicting the outburst of Takyrtor Lake in the Nooruz River basin in Kyrgyzstan. The early warning enabled the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic to evacuate two villages and implement timely mitigation measures.

Building the Capacity of Local Scholars

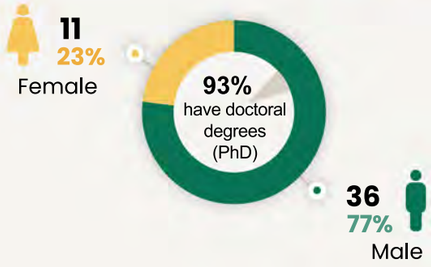
Aibek Baiymbetov, Research Fellow at the Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit (CHHU), completed his MA in Ethnomusicology at Wesleyan University through UCA's Central Asian Faculty Development Programme (CAFDP) and began a PhD in Ethnomusicology at the same university within this programme. His academic journey demonstrates CAFDP's long-term contribution to developing local scholars and strengthening research and teaching capacity in Central Asia. Aibek is also building partnerships with institutions in the United States and advancing UCA's mission to preserve and promote the region's cultural heritage. Aibek is a filmmaker of award-winning documentary series in the fields of cultural heritage and climate change.

UCA
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ASIA

University of Central Asia
Research Facts at a Glance
2025

UCA RESEARCH ACADEMICS IN 2025

Total Research Academics 47

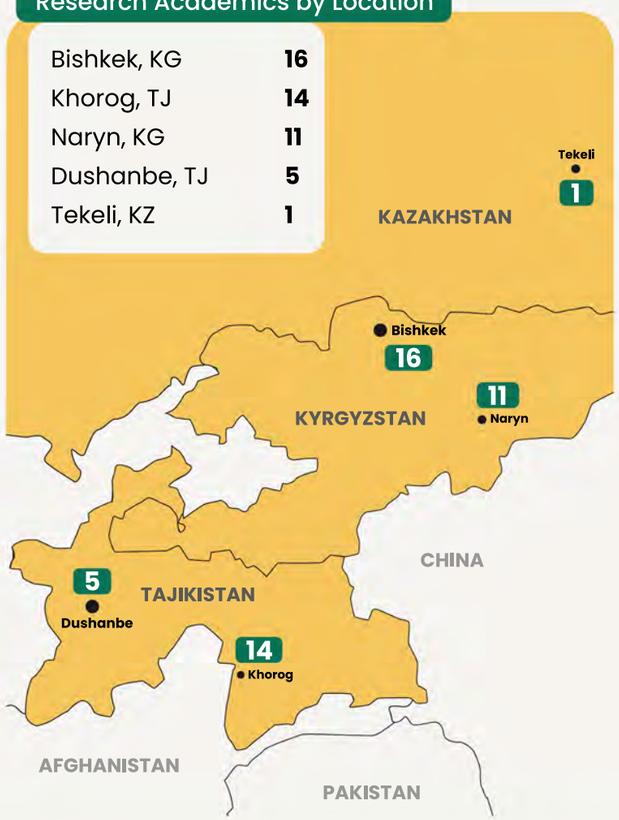


Research Academics by Nationality 17

International	**41%**	(19)
Kyrgyzstan	**30%**	(14)
Tajikistan	**23%**	(11)
Kazakhstan	**6%**	(3)

Research Academics by Location

Bishkek, KG	16
Khorog, TJ	14
Naryn, KG	11
Dushanbe, TJ	5
Tekeli, KZ	1



Research Staff 47

Research Fellow	12
Associate Professor	11
Senior Research Fellow	11
Assistant Professor	10
Professorial Level Academics	2
Post-Doctoral Fellow	1



Senior Research Fellow Dr Vitalii Zaginaev operates a drone while surveying Lake Kol Tor in Kyrgyzstan.

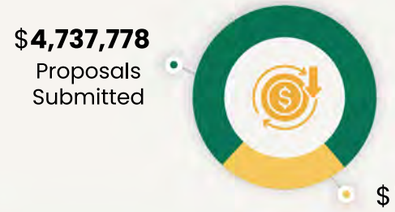


Senior Research Fellow Dr Arnaud Caiserman conducts fieldwork in the high mountains of Tajikistan, examining snow conditions and avalanche activity.

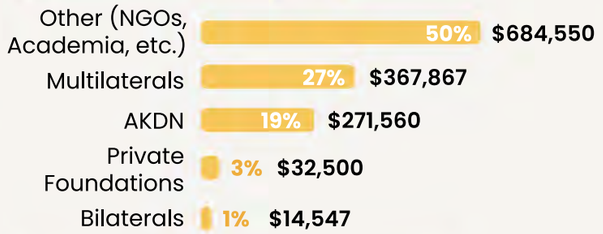


Research Fellow Altyn Kapalova leads a session on traditional Central Asian healing practices for mental health.

UCA RESEARCH GRANT CAPTURE IN 2025



Funding Agencies 15



Top 5 SDGs in Research Projects

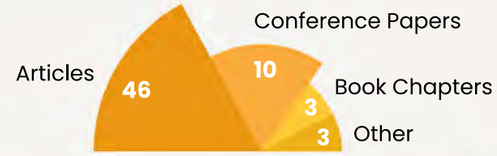


Key Research Grant Themes

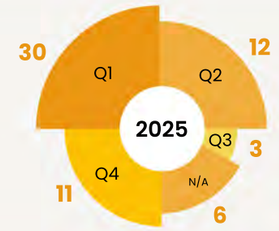
Renewable Energy
Climate Change
Financial Literacy **Health**
Economic Education
Popular Culture Logistics
Environment Livelihoods
Water Resources **Central Asia**
SDG Nexus Network Cultural Exchange
Country Strategy Ecosystems
Trade **Agriculture**
Agrifood Trade
Decarbonisation
Hydrology

UCA RESEARCH OUTPUTS IN 2025

Scopus Publications 62



Scopus Publications by Journal Quartile



Traditional Research Outputs 92

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals	44
Policy, Research Reports & Working Papers	13
Book Chapters	12
Conference Proceedings & Abstracts	11
Articles in Local Journals	8
Edited Volumes, Books & Monographs	3
Datasets	1

Non-Traditional Research Outputs 14

Media Interviews	7
Exhibitions, Design Competitions & Festivals	6
Podcasts	1

Key Scopus Publication Themes

Natural Hazards
Energy Management **Photovoltaic Systems**
STEM Education **Sustainability**
Disaster Preparedness Energy
Renewable E-Learning Mountain Agriculture
Environmental Vulnerability **SDG Monitoring**
Water Scarcity Sediment Dynamics
Climate Change **Science Engagement**
Remote Sensing and GIS Academic Performance
Nature of Science **Glaciers Deep Learning**
Ecosystem Restoration
Sustainable Development