

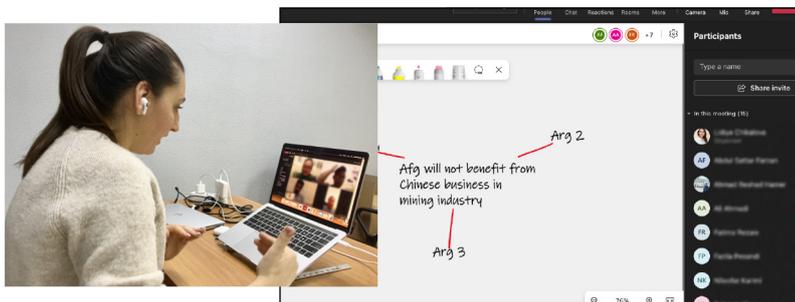
# AFGHAN RESEARCH INITIATIVE

## Afghanistan Research Initiative

The University of Central Asia announces the launch of the Afghanistan Research Initiative (ARI), which aims to help sustain the research and capacity gains made over the last decade and continue producing knowledge critical to the country's present and future. This Initiative is particularly vital today because of the precarious state of in-country Afghan research and the departure of many researchers who are now refugees in various countries. The accelerated brain drain has dispersed research capacity, and knowledge risks being lost as intellectuals vie for a place in new surroundings. Moreover, the Initiative seeks to create a new pipeline of researchers by assisting young scholars in admission to post-graduate studies.

ARI, a programme of the University's Graduate School of Development, is supported by a three-year grant by Canada's International Development Research Centre and the Aga Khan Foundation of Canada. ARI will develop a network that gives voice to displaced Afghan scholars and students and helps them connect to research communities. It will assist promising young scholars in gaining admission to doctorate programmes by delivering courses that build research capacity, offer fellowships to students in doctoral studies and promote knowledge creation with a grants programme. It will also host a platform for exchanging information to help forge a research community as an asset for the future. ARI is based at the University's main office in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic.

For further information about ARI, contact: [ari@ucentralasia.org](mailto:ari@ucentralasia.org).



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The University of Central Asia is a private, not-for-profit, secular, regional university founded in 2000 through an International Treaty signed by the Presidents of Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, and His Highness the Aga Khan, ratified by their respective parliaments and registered with the United Nations. The Graduate School of Development is the home for multi-disciplinary research on Central Asia's social, economic, and cultural development conducted by five entities ([www.ucentralasia.org](http://www.ucentralasia.org)).

## University Preparatory Courses

ARI delivers two free synchronous online courses to prepare Afghan students for graduate studies. The English for Academic Purposes course started in August 2022, and the first intake of 23 students (among them 11 females) will complete their studies by the end of October. The co-

hort is comprised of senior undergraduates and master's students from diverse disciplines. Lydia Chikalova, the course instructor, noted, "The group has been very active in class discussion and collaboration in coming analyzing with various research studies on issues facing their country." Ms. Chikalova, a UCA staff member with two master's degrees (international journalism and security policy) is a Cambridge-certified professional English instructor. The second

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course of the programme, Statistical Reasoning and Analysis will start in November. It is taught by Dr. Marzhan Aikimbaeva, an economist and research fellow at the Graduate School's Institute of Public Po-

licy and Administration. The courses will have additional cycles, and those interested in enrolling should contact ARI. Students that excel in their studies are eligible for a grant and additional mentoring to help them succeed when applying to universities.

## PROFILES OF SCHOLARS IN THE DIASPORA



### Dr. Shakardokh Jafari

Born in Daikundi in 1977, when she was six years old her family emigrated to Iran when the war broke out. After completing an undergraduate degree at Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, she moved to Afghanistan in 2003 and started teaching at Kabul Medical University and completed a master's degree in radiation physics. In 2010 she moved to the University of Surrey to study for a master's in medical physics and in 2015 received a doctorate in medical physics. Her innovative technology was patented in 2019. Dr. Jafari is part of the UK Sirius programme for graduate entrepreneurs. Some of her works and awards are available [here](#).



### Dr. Ali Karimi

Dr. Karimi is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication (CARGC), which is a research center at the Annenberg School for Communication. He holds a Ph.D. in communication studies from McGill University, Canada. His research is focused on techniques and technologies of surveillance, and information and governance. He is particularly interested in numerical information and the instruments used to quantify, classify, and measure people and places. A list of his publications and achievements are available [here](#).



### Dr. Arian Sharifi

Dr. Arian Sharifi is a national security professional with over a decade of high-level policy and research experience. He has served as Director General of National Threat Assessment at Afghan National Security Council, as Operations Research Analyst at the International

Center for Political Violence and Terrorism Research in Singapore, as an Analyst for the Combatting Terrorism Center at West Point, and most recently as a Senior Adviser to Afghanistan's Foreign Minister until the fall of Kabul.

Dr. Sharifi holds a Ph.D. in International Security Studies from Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, a Master's in Public Affairs from the Princeton University School of Public and International Affairs, and a Bachelor's in Political Science from Wesleyan University. Dr. Sharifi is fluent in Dari, Pashto, and English, and understands Urdu. He has published widely in Afghan and international media. He is a frequent commentator on issues related to terrorism and security in Afghanistan and South and Central Asia.

## PUBLICATIONS

From the Graduate School of Development:  
Malistani, H.A.; Jawadi, H.A.; Sidle, R.C.; Khawary, M.; Khan, A.A.  
**Water Resources and Water Quality Assessment, Central  
Bamyan, Afghanistan.** *Water* 2022, 14, 3060.

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Caiserman, A., Sidle, R. C., and Gurung, D. R.: **Snow Avalanche  
Frequency Estimation (SAFE):** 32 years of monitoring remote  
avalanche depositional zones in high mountains of Afghanistan,  
*The Cryosphere*, 16, 3295–3312.

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The article was featured in *Nature*, one of the world's leading  
general-science journals: **Avalanches in remote peaks are  
revealed with old satellites' aid.** *Nature*, Aug 31, 2022.

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The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) released  
a new report on the humanitarian and economic situation:  
**“One Year in Review: Afghanistan Since August 2021”.**

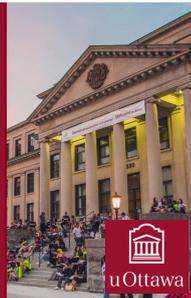
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## UPCOMING EVENT

### Options for Afghanistan: One Year after the Return of the Taliban

The Centre for International Policy Studies,  
University of Ottawa featuring notable Afghan experts.  
Online, 19 October 2022, 09:30 to 11:30 EDT.

To register [CLICK HERE](#)

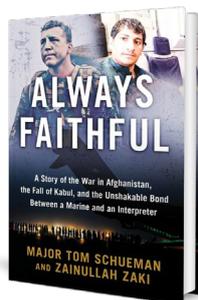


## NEW BOOKS



*The Haunting of Hajji Hotak and Other Stories* is a moving  
exploration of characters  
grappling with the ghosts  
of war and displacement  
and one that speaks to the  
immediate political landscape  
we reckon with today.

[LEARN MORE >>](#)



*Always Faithful* entwines the stories  
of Marine Major Tom Schueman,  
and his friend and Afghan  
interpreter, Zainullah “Zak” Zaki,  
as they describe their parallel lives,  
culminating in Zak and his family’s  
harrowing escape from Kabul.  
Published: August 09, 2022.

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## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



### Germany: German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

**Study level:** masters, PhD.

**Covers:** living expenses, book  
allowance, hostel, tuition fee.

**Deadline:** 30 November 2022.

**Fields of study:** multiple fields in the  
social, managerial, natural sciences  
and engineering.

**Monthly stipend:** master’s degree –  
850 euros per month; PhD degree –  
1,200 euros per month.

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### Allama Muhammad Iqbal Scholarships for Afghan Nationals



#### Pakistan: Allama Iqbal Scholarships

**Study level:** undergraduate, masters,  
PhD.

**Covers:** living expenses, book  
allowance, hostel, tuition fee.

**Fields of study:** multiple fields in the  
social, managerial, natural sciences,  
engineering and more.

**Who can apply:** applicants should be  
from Afghanistan; do not hold any other  
scholarship at the time of application  
and during the study period.

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### CHEVENING SCHOLARSHIPS

#### UK: Chevening Scholarship for Afghans

**Study level:** masters programmes.  
(one year), fields of study not restricted.

**Covers:** living expenses, book allowance,  
hostel, tuition fee.

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