Partnerships with UK and Global Universities at UCA

Diana Pauna – Dean, School of Arts & Sciences
Myrza Karimov – Head, Cooperative Education
Salim Sumar* - Head, Central Asian Faculty Development Programme
UCA as part of AKDN

AKDN
AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

Economic Development

Social Development (Education)

Culture

Aga Khan Foundation
Aga Khan Education Services
Aga Khan Academies
Aga Khan University
University of Central Asia
"It is important to know that what we are doing here (at UCA) will be a valuable example of international cooperation for the future, not only here in the region, but also for people far beyond the region."

His Highness the Aga Khan  
Chancellor, University of Central Asia  
UCA Naryn Campus Inauguration Ceremony  
19 October 2016
Who are we: A truly Central Asian University

University of Central Asia (UCA) was founded by International Treaty between the governments of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and His Highness the Aga Khan.

UCA is a secular and not-for-profit institution with campuses in three countries.
Scaling a Regional University System

Research Institutes first

1997
Aga Khan Humanities Project

2006
School of Professional & Continuing Education 12 locations

2007
Capacity building 42 doctoral and masters scholarships CAFDP Cohort 1

2011
Institute of Public Policy & Administration

2013
Cultural Heritage & Humanities Unit

2016
Mountain Societies Research Institute

2017
Naryn Campus Launched

2021
CAFDP Cohort 2

2021
Khorog Campus Opening

2021
First graduation

1997

2006

2007

2011

2013

2016

2017

2021

2021

Khorog and Naryn

CAFDP Cohort 2
“To promote the social and economic development of Central Asia, particularly its mountain societies.”

“To provide a world class education with a Central Asian context to the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan.”
Computer Lab
Student Dormitories
Flexible Classroom
International Partnerships

Curriculum Development * Faculty Development * & Research
## UCA School of Arts & Sciences
### Curriculum Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Naryn</th>
<th>Khorog</th>
<th>Tekeli (2021)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BS</td>
<td><a href="#">University of Toronto</a></td>
<td><a href="#">UBC</a></td>
<td>Engineering Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>Earth and Environmental Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA</td>
<td><a href="#">University of Technology Sydney</a></td>
<td><a href="#">Economics</a></td>
<td>Business and Management</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Communications and Media</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>Central Asian Studies</td>
<td>Development Studies</td>
<td>Globalisation Studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Undergraduate Degree Programmes

1. The Preparatory Programme
2. Liberal Arts / General Education
3. Pre-requisites
4. Required Major Courses
5. Electives, Major & Minor

Year of study:
- Summer: Paid Internship #1
- Summer: Paid Internship #2
- Summer: Paid Internship #3

Graduation BSc or BA

Undergraduate Degree Programmes
# UCA Partnerships in Undergraduate Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seneca College</td>
<td>Preparatory Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Toronto</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of British Columbia</td>
<td>Earth and Environmental Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Victoria</td>
<td>Cooperative Education</td>
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<td>Higher School of Economics, Moscow</td>
<td>Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockholm School of Economics/Riga, Latvia</td>
<td>Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>University College London</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Faculty Development Timeline

To create a pipeline of Central Asian PhD graduates qualified from international universities of repute to eventually take on faculty positions at UCA

CAFDP Cohort 1:
36 Doctoral Fellows & 6 Masters candidates

CAFDP Cohort 2
CAFDP Cohort 1 – 2008-2016

Nationalities
- Tajikistan: 33%
- Pakistan: 8%

Partner Universities
- Europe: 49%
- Canada: 17%
- USA: 6%
- UK: 28%
CAFDP – Some International Partners in Cohort 1 – 36 PhDs
Some German University Partners – Cohort 1 - 16 PhDs
UK University Partners – COHORT 1 - 10 PhDs

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MANCHESTER 1824

The University of Manchester

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER
CAFDP Cohort 1 Outcomes

Cohort 1: Started in 2008-2016

- 36 PhDs
- 26 Completed PhDs
- 8 Writing up PhDs
- 2 On going PhDs
- 9 currently work for UCA
- 6 Masters – all completed
International Calibre of Faculty

Expertise
- 90% of UCA Faculty will have PhDs
- Experts in their respective fields

Profile
- 25% from Central Asia
- 50% from surrounding region
- 25% from North America and Europe

Student - Faculty Ratio
- 9 students :1 faculty member
UCA will have the smallest ratio in Central Asia
CAFDP – Cohort 2 (2018 - 2021)

- MOU Signed 9 November 2018
- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Media and Communications
- Business Management
- Economics
- Any outstanding candidate
CAFDP Cohort 2 - 2018

- Over 400 queries received
- 100 attended webinar
- 117 completed applications received
- 21 selected on long list
- 17 interviewed
- 8 short listed by UCA to apply
Some Potential University Partners – Cohort 2
Some challenges to Partnerships

- Historical legacy - not a two-way street between partners

  - Cultural, logistical, and perception barriers.
    - i. Lack of communication between schools & partners
    - i. Lack of understanding of how each other works.
    - i. Lack to robust evidence base around measuring impact of partnership
Some Enablers to Partnerships

a. Individuals, relationships, mutuality & win-win propositions

Approach (to success and sustainability).

a. Pilot programmes initially

a. Realistic expectations: in delivery, agreement & MOU
WAY FORWARD – Some learnings (Strategic)

1. Partnerships is survival (teaching, research & support)
   • Essential to any strategic planning and institutional growth
   • Collaborations, Partnerships, Exposure etc – a two way street

2. Deeper Partnerships – PhDs/post docs/sabbaticals/exchanges
   • Short Exposure visits: support staff, researchers, faculty
   • Multi year collaborations important not to loose momentum

3. Universities must ‘want’ to do this and
   • Buy in needed at the highest level
WAY FORWARD – Some learnings (Operational)

1. Costs vary considerably across North America, Europe, Asia
   - Costs remain a barrier for institutions and individuals

2. No fee is a huge incentive
   - Masters and MPhil – a good short term alternative to PhDs

3. Support & Pastoral care – importance hugely under estimated
THANK YOU - QUESTIONS?

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