Approach

A commitment to development lies at the heart of the UCA endeavor and is reflected in the decision, arrived jointly with government, to locate its campuses in economically depressed mountain communities. Locating universities in secondary cities to spur regional economic development is a new approach in Central Asia, but hardly a novelty in advanced economies.

The commitment to development is reflected in the approach to starting a new university: bottom-up by meeting the immediate educational and training needs of the population through labour market relevant programmes for all and top-down with research initiatives to establish UCA as a centre of knowledge capable of addressing complex problems. Learning from this experience, UCA will complete the middle core with undergraduate and graduate degree programmes when campus construction is completed. At all times UCA will remain a development university with multiple points of impact.

In pursuing the ambition to create a world class university with accredited degree programmes UCA is structured to link higher education with communities, enterprise, civil society and government to nurture a dynamic circulation of skills and ideas. Degree programmes are selected for market relevance and academic rigour. The employment of graduates in Central Asia is a core institutional priority.

Achieving Regional Impact

- Over 43,500 learners in professional and vocational programmes since 2006.
- Since 2009, 400 faculty trained by AKHP to implement its innovative multidisciplinary humanities curriculum consisting of 8 courses were delivered at 38 Central Asian state universities and colleges, reaching 6,000 students.
- Thirty-two Central Asian students are pursuing pre-doctoral or doctoral studies at 13 different institutions of higher learning throughout the world.

Development of regional resources

- Leading educational publisher in Central Asia with 180 textbooks published by SPCE to date.
- In 2011, the University launched a Mountain Societies Research Centre (MSRC) and an Institute of Public Policy and Administration (IPPA), to serve as permanent platforms for production of quality, applied research, policy analysis, professional development and dissemination activities to address key development challenges in the region.
- In 2011, UCA’s Research Fellows produced 38 publications and presented at 40 conferences. Its latest publications include a five-volume study on folk music, oral history, and theatre traditions from the Pamir region of Tajikistan, and a definitive two volume study of the Kyrgyz Küüs; and a manual for herders in multiple national languages.

Employment creation:

- UCA already among the largest direct and indirect employers at its campus locations. 380 people were directly employed across three campuses (2011), more than 90 per cent are Central Asian.
- Over 1,500 new construction jobs during 2013 - 2016.
- More than 450 new faculty and staff jobs by 2020 (more than 80 per cent Central Asian).