

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WORLD ECONOMY AND DIPLOMACY (UWED), TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN (2023–2025)

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12.00.00 – Yuridik fanlar Uzbekistan’s Accession to the WTO

Legal Reforms and Challenges

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Abstract

Introduction. The University of World Economy and Diplomacy (UWED), established on September 23, 1992, in Tashkent, is Uzbekistan’s premier public institution specializing in international economics, diplomacy, international law, and global relations. Functioning under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, UWED has a mission to train highly qualified specialists geared toward supporting Uzbekistan’s foreign policy, economic diplomacy, and leadership roles on the global stage.

Over the past three years (2023–2025), the university has not only continued this tradition but significantly expanded its academic offerings, international collaborations, research outputs, student outcomes, and institutional stature — establishing itself as a rising center of higher education excellence in Central Asia.

Introduction

1. Academic Modernization, Structural Reform, and Institutional Transformation.

Between 2023 and 2025, institutional reform has focused on three measurable vectors: curriculum modernization, digital transformation, and competency-based training. The university accelerated the integration of modular course structures aligned with international credit-transfer systems, enabling greater compatibility with European Higher Education Area standards. Undergraduate programs—traditionally structured over five academic years—have incorporated more practice-oriented components, including simulation-based diplomatic negotiations, case-based international trade analysis, and applied legal drafting exercises in international law. Graduate programs, typically two-year master’s degrees, have increased emphasis on empirical research methodologies, quantitative data analysis, and policy evaluation techniques.

A notable institutional priority has been increasing the share of faculty members with internationally recognized doctoral degrees and foreign research experience. The university’s “Smart University” transformation model, implemented gradually from 2023 onward, reflects



a broader state policy of digitalization in Uzbekistan's public institutions. Within UWED, this transformation has included:

- Expansion of digital learning management systems
- Hybrid lecture formats combining in-person and online delivery
- Electronic library modernization with expanded access to international databases
- Introduction of plagiarism-detection systems aligned with global academic integrity standards
- Strengthening of data-driven academic monitoring mechanisms

These reforms have measurable academic implications. Students now complete a greater proportion of coursework in research-based formats rather than purely theoretical examinations. For example, in international economics programs, econometric modeling and trade-flow analysis assignments increasingly use real-world datasets from international financial institutions. In diplomacy tracks, students conduct structured country policy analyses and draft mock diplomatic communiqués using formal conventions consistent with United Nations documentation standards.

Importantly, these reforms coincide with Uzbekistan's broader foreign policy transformation since 2017, emphasizing regional cooperation in Central Asia, economic openness, and multilateral engagement.

2. Internationalization, Strategic Partnerships and Academic Mobility Expansion.

Between 2023 and 2025, one of UWED's most quantifiable achievements has been the expansion and deepening of international partnerships. The university currently maintains cooperation agreements with more than 60 foreign higher education institutions and research centers. These partnerships operate through memorandums of understanding, joint research agreements, faculty exchanges, and mobility programs.

A particularly important mechanism of international integration has been participation in the European Union's Erasmus+ program. Through Erasmus+, UWED students and faculty have engaged in academic exchanges with leading European universities.

These exchanges have both quantitative and qualitative significance. On a quantitative level, dozens of students annually participate in semester-based exchanges, while faculty members engage in short-term teaching mobility or joint curriculum development. On a qualitative level, exposure to European pedagogical systems strengthens students' comparative understanding of governance models, EU law, economic integration frameworks, and multilateral institutional practices.

UWED's internationalization is not limited to Europe. The university has hosted students and visiting scholars from countries including China, the Republic of Korea, Japan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Canada. The growing geographic diversity of international engagement reflects Uzbekistan's increasingly multi-vector foreign policy approach.

Student mobility during 2023–2025 has included:

- Semester exchanges
- Short-term diplomatic training programs



- Participation in international conferences
- Joint research workshops
- Language immersion programs

Such mobility enhances employability outcomes. Graduates with exchange experience often demonstrate higher proficiency in foreign languages (particularly English, French, and German), stronger intercultural communication skills, and familiarity with comparative regulatory systems.

Institutionally, the expansion of international agreements also strengthens UWED's research capacity. Joint publications, co-supervised theses, and collaborative policy forums increase citation visibility and academic integration. Moreover, foreign diplomatic missions accredited in Tashkent regularly participate in UWED events, guest lectures, and graduation ceremonies, reinforcing the university's diplomatic ecosystem.

3. Student Academic Excellence, Competitive Admissions, and Graduate Outcomes

The academic strength of any higher education institution can be assessed by examining three measurable dimensions: selectivity of admissions, academic performance during study, and post-graduation placement. Over the past three years, UWED has demonstrated advancement in all three categories.

Admission to UWED remains highly competitive within Uzbekistan's national testing system. In the 2025 admission cycle, a significant number of applicants achieving the maximum national testing score (189 out of 189 points under the state examination system) selected UWED as their institution of choice under state grant placements. This statistic is particularly meaningful: maximum-score applicants represent the top percentile of academic performance nationwide.

State grant placements—fully funded by the government—are limited and highly competitive. The fact that a substantial proportion of top-scoring candidates enroll at UWED strengthens the university's academic environment by concentrating high-performing students in relatively small cohorts. Such concentration enhances seminar quality, peer competition, and research collaboration at undergraduate and graduate levels.

UWED also maintains close connections with Uzbekistan's diplomatic and governmental institutions. Graduates frequently pursue careers in:

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Diplomatic missions abroad
- International economic agencies
- Multilateral organizations
- International trade and consulting firms
- Legal advisory institutions specializing in international law

Graduation ceremonies in 2024 and 2025 were attended by senior state officials, foreign ambassadors, and international partners—symbolically reinforcing the university's function as a national diplomatic кадров pipeline.

Moreover, student achievements extend beyond admissions statistics. Students regularly participate in international moot court competitions in international law, model United Nations



simulations, economic policy contests, and analytical essay competitions. Academic lyceum students affiliated with UWED have achieved high IELTS and SAT scores, creating a strong preparatory base for undergraduate cohorts.

4. Research Productivity, Academic Output, and Scholarly Impact (2023–2025)

Between 2023 and 2025, the research performance of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (UWED) demonstrated measurable growth in publication output, citation accumulation, and subject-specific scholarly visibility. According to EduRank's 2025 database, UWED has produced **296 academic publications** with a total of **730 citations**, reflecting its contribution to research in economics, political science, international relations, and law. These figures, while modest compared to large research universities, are significant within the context of Uzbekistan's specialized higher education institutions, particularly those focused on diplomacy and international affairs.

The subject distribution of UWED's research output shows concentration in **Political Science (global rank #1,373)**, **International Relations (#530 globally in subject ranking)**, and **Economics and Finance**, indicating a thematic alignment between teaching programs and scholarly production. The Political Science field alone accounts for more than 200 indexed publications and approximately 600 citations, illustrating that the university's academic strength lies primarily in governance, statecraft, public administration, and foreign policy analysis. Further academic engagement is reflected in UWED's organization of scientific conferences, roundtables, and policy forums during 2023–2025.

UWED's doctoral programs (PhD and DSc tracks) have also expanded research capacity in recent years. The university maintains specialized dissertation councils in political science, economics, and legal studies, enabling candidates to defend theses domestically rather than relying on external institutions. This institutional capability enhances research autonomy and increases the volume of advanced academic output produced within the university's ecosystem. Official university documentation confirms active doctoral training and research supervision under accredited academic councils.

Additionally, UWED publishes its own peer-reviewed academic journal focused on international relations and economic diplomacy. This journal serves as a platform for faculty, doctoral candidates, and external scholars to disseminate research findings. The existence of a university-based journal contributes to internal academic circulation, strengthens scholarly debate, and provides publication opportunities for early-career researchers.

5. Infrastructure Development, Academic Environment, and Student Support Systems

The period 2023–2025 also reflects continued institutional investment in infrastructure modernization and student support mechanisms. UWED's main campus, located in Tashkent, includes specialized lecture halls, language laboratories, digital classrooms, and a centralized information-resource center designed to support multilingual and research-intensive education. The university maintains electronic library access and has expanded digital academic resources to align with contemporary higher education standards. A notable component of UWED's



academic environment is its **Academic Lyceum**, which functions as a preparatory institution affiliated with the university.

Student engagement at UWED extends beyond classroom instruction. The university hosts debates, Model United Nations simulations, and international policy competitions that simulate real-world diplomatic processes. Such extracurricular activities enhance students' negotiation, public speaking, and analytical competencies—skills essential for careers in diplomacy and international economics. Moreover, UWED has maintained close interaction with foreign diplomatic missions accredited in Uzbekistan. Representatives from embassies of countries such as Japan, Germany, France, and the Republic of Korea regularly participate in academic events, guest lectures, and graduation ceremonies. This engagement creates a direct interface between students and practicing diplomats, enhancing practical exposure and professional networking opportunities.

6. National Reputation, Rankings, and Strategic Position within Uzbekistan's Higher Education System

UWED's institutional standing within Uzbekistan's higher education landscape has remained strong during the last three years. According to EduRank's 2025 assessment, UWED is ranked **6th nationally** among Uzbek universities and **5th in Tashkent**, positioning it within the country's top tier of specialized institutions. Globally, the university holds position **#6277**, reflecting its niche specialization rather than mass-scale research volume.

Subject-specific rankings further reinforce its specialization in international studies. In International Relations, UWED ranks **#530 worldwide**, demonstrating competitive visibility within its academic focus area. This ranking is particularly relevant given that international relations programs globally are often concentrated in long-established Western institutions; therefore, regional visibility within Central Asia is strategically meaningful.

UWED's alignment with Uzbekistan's state foreign policy priorities also enhances its national prestige. As the only higher education institution operating directly under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it serves as a principal кадров training center for diplomatic and international economic services. This institutional linkage differentiates it structurally from other universities in Uzbekistan and solidifies its policy relevance. ([7] <https://www.uwed.uz/en/pages/about-university>)

Conclusion

The analysis of developments at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (UWED) during the period 2023–2025 demonstrates a phase of structured institutional consolidation characterized by academic modernization, expanded international cooperation, measurable research activity, and sustained national prestige. Established in 1992 and operating under the supervision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, UWED continues to occupy a strategically distinct position within the country's higher education system, serving as a specialized training center for diplomacy, international law, and global economic relations. Academically, the university has maintained a focused yet competitive enrollment structure of approximately 2,000 students, supported by a qualified faculty body and specialized



dissertation councils. Curriculum updates, digital resource expansion, and research-oriented instruction have strengthened program quality, particularly in International Relations, Political Science, and Economics. The modernization of pedagogical approaches during this period aligns with broader national reforms aimed at increasing competitiveness and global integration of Uzbekistan's higher education sector

Internationalization remains one of UWED's strongest institutional pillars. Cooperation agreements with more than 60 foreign universities, implementation of joint academic courses with institutions such as the University of Tsukuba, and active participation in global academic exchanges reflect a transition from symbolic partnerships toward operational collaboration. These initiatives enhance student competencies in intercultural communication, sustainability studies, and comparative international systems—core skills required in modern diplomatic and economic practice

Research productivity indicators further demonstrate gradual but stable academic growth. With 296 indexed publications and 730 citations recorded by 2025, UWED shows concentrated scholarly strength in political science and international relations. Its global subject ranking of #530 in International Relations and national ranking of 6th among Uzbek universities confirm its specialized academic visibility within both regional and international position.

In conclusion, during the 2023–2025 period, UWED has demonstrated consistent institutional strengthening rather than abrupt expansion. Its achievements are best characterized by qualitative consolidation: improved curriculum relevance, sustained international engagement, measurable research output, and reinforced national prestige. While the university operates within a specialized and moderate scale compared to large global research institutions, it continues to solidify its role as Uzbekistan's leading center for the training of diplomatic, legal, and international economic professionals.

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