

SPAIN – UZBEKISTAN UNIVERSITY FORUM

MADRID, 10 JUNE 2026

**Universidad Rey Juan Carlos (URJC), Departmental Building, Vicalvaro
Campus, C/ Calahorra, 1, Vicálvaro, Madrid**

09:00 – 10:00 REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

10:00 – 13:30 PLENARY SESSION: CONTEXT AND FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION

10:00 – 10:30 Institutional opening

- Prof. Abraham Duarte Muñoz, Rector, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Representative of the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE)
- Prof. Komiljon Karimov, Rector, Westminster International University in Tashkent, International Ranking Experts Group (IREG) Vice President
- Prof. Amaya Mendikoetxea Pelayo, Board Member of Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE), Rector of Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
- H.E. Farrukh Tursunov, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Spain
- Fátima Terol, Deputy Head, Higher Education International Promotion Unit, Spanish Service for the Internationalisation of Education, SEPIE

10:30 – 10:45 Welcome Address by the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos

- Ana Felicitas Muñoz, Vice-Rector for International Relations, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos
- Pablo Salvadores, Director of Internationalization, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos

10:45 – 11:00 The Higher Education System in Spain

- Iván Barreiro, Asia Coordinator, Higher Education International Promotion Unit, Spanish Service for the Internationalisation of Education, SEPIE

11:00 – 11:15 The Higher Education System in Uzbekistan

- Prof. Komiljon Karimov, Rector of the Westminster International University in Tashkent, International Ranking Experts Group (IREG) Vice President

11:15 – 11:45 COFFEE BREAK

11:45 – 12:45 PANEL DISCUSSION. UZBEKISTAN AND SPAIN: STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION

Moderator: Prof. Fernando Camacho Padilla, Associate professor in the department of Modern History, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

Panellists:

- Javier Cuchi Bollain, Deputy Director General, Directorate-General for North America, Eastern Europe, Asia and the Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain
- Dr. Leonor Acosta Bustamante, General Director for Language Policy, University of Cadiz
- Dr. Bakhtiyor Mardonov, Rector, Navoi State University of Mining and Technologies
- Dr. Cigdem Canbay Turkyilmaz, Rector, Samarkand State Technical University

12:45 – 13:45 PANEL DISCUSSION. ERASMUS+ AS A KEY FRAMEWORK FOR SPAIN–UZBEKISTAN COOPERATION

Moderator: Loreta Paulauskaite, International Contact Point, Erasmus+ Higher Education Unit, SEPIE

Panellists:

- Mar Fernandez, Director of International Relations, University of Valladolid
- Dr. Ilhom Abdurahmanov, Vice-Rector of Namangan State Technical University
- Dr. Abror Juraev, Vice-rector, Bukhara State University

13:45 – 14:45 NETWORKING LUNCH

14:45 – 15:45 PARALLEL SESSIONS: OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION

Panel discussion. Spanish language, culture and academic cooperation

Moderator: Dr. Carmen Conti, Director of the Internationalization Office Transversal Internationalization and Full Professor of Spanish Language, University of Jaén

Panellists:

- Bibian Zamora, Director-General for Spanish Worldwide at the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
- Albert Vitriá, Education Attaché Office of the Embassy of Spain in Moscow
- Dr. Ilkhomjon Tukhtasinov, Rector, Uzbekistan State World Languages University
- Dr. Bakhodir Kholikov, Rector, Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages

Panel discussion. Opportunities for Cooperation: Green and Digital Transition

Moderator: Dr. Bakhtiyor Makhkamov, Rector, Tashkent University of Information Technologies

Panellists:

- Prof. Javier Rodrigo Ilarri, Director of the Department of Hydraulic Engineering and Environment, Universitat Politècnica de València
- Prof. Saidakhrorkhon Nabiev, Head of the Department for Transformation and Strategic Development University, Tashkent University of Information Technologies
- Prof. Jolibekov Berdiyev, Rector, Karakalpak State University

15:45 – 16:15 COFFEE BREAK

16:15 – 17:00 NETWORKING SESSION AND BILATERAL MEETINGS

17:00 – 17:15 CLOSING

BARCELONA, 12 JUNE 2026

**University of Barcelona (UB)
Historic Building, Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes, 585, Barcelona**

08:30 – 09:15 WELCOME AND REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

09:15 – 11:15 PLENARY SESSION

09:15 – 09:30 Institutional Opening

- Prof. Joan Guàrdia Olmos, Rector of the University of Barcelona
- Prof. Komiljon Karimov, Rector, Westminster International University in Tashkent, International Ranking Experts Group (IREG) Vice President
- Fátima Terol, Deputy Head, Higher Education International Promotion Unit, Spanish Service for the Internationalisation of Education, SEPIE

09:30 – 09:45 The Catalan University System: Priorities, Internationalisation and Innovation

- Maria Pia Moret, Departament de Recerca i Universitats, Generalitat de Catalunya

09:45 – 10:00 The Higher Education System in Uzbekistan

- Prof. Komiljon Karimov, Rector of the Westminster International University in Tashkent, International Ranking Experts Group (IREG) Vice President

10:00 – 10:15 Promoting Knowledge of Central Asia and Uzbekistan: Casa Asia's Central Asia Observatory

- Yasmin Paricio, Coordinator of the Politics, Society and Education Department, Casa Asia
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10:15 – 11:15 PANEL DISCUSSION. LEARNING WITHOUT BORDERS: PEDAGOGICAL INNOVATION AND INTERNATIONALISATION OF THE CURRICULUM

Moderator: Prof. Bibiana Crespo, Delegate of the Rector for International Mobility and Global Engagement, University of Barcelona

Panellists:

- Prof. Cristina Galván, Delegate of the Rector for European University Alliance CHARM-EU, University of Barcelona
- Marina Vives, Internationalisation Projects Officer, International Centre, Rovira i Virgili University (URV), European Alliance (AURORA)

- Dr. Akmal Akhatov Vice-rector, Samarkand State University
- Prof. Abduvasikov Abduaziz, Vice-Rector, Tashkent State Agrarian University

11:15 – 11:30 GROUP PHOTO

11:30 – 12:00 COFFEE BREAK

12:00 – 13:00 PLENARY SESSION

12:00 – 13:00 Panel discussion. Connected Universities: International Networks, Joint Programmes and New Strategies for Cooperation

Moderator: Dr. Raul Ramos, Vice-Rector for Internationalization Policy, University of Barcelona

Panellists:

- Prof. Pastora Martínez, Commissioner for international action, Open University of Catalonia (UOC), European Alliances (OPEN-EU)
- Prof. Helena Ramalinho, Vice-Rector for Internationalisation, Pompeu Fabra University (UPF), European Alliances (EUTOPIA)
- Dr. Umida Tillaeva, Vice Rector for International Relations, Tashkent Pharmaceutical Institute
- Dr. Muhsinjon Kholmukhamedov, Rector of the “Silk Road” International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage

13:00 – 13:45 NETWORKING LUNCH

13:45 – 14:45 NETWORKING SESSION AND BILATERAL MEETINGS

14:45 – 15:00 CLOSING

With the collaboration of:

