

First Academic Buildings of Italy–Azerbaijan University Inaugurated in Baku

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva, and President of the Italian Republic Sergio Mattarella attended the inauguration ceremony of the first academic buildings of the Italy–Azerbaijan University in Baku on October 1.

Rector of ADA University Hafiz Pashayev welcomed President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva, and President of the Italian Republic Sergio Mattarella and briefed them on the newly constructed facilities and the surrounding park area. They also visited the exhibition of agricultural products from Azerbaijan and Italy.

The Italy–Azerbaijan University was initiated by President Ilham Aliyev during his state visit to Italy in 2020. In 2022, ADA University signed academic cooperation agreements with five leading Italian universities: Luiss Guido Carli University, Sapienza University of Rome, Politecnico di Torino, University of Bologna, and Politecnico di Milano.

This partnership brings Italy's experience in supporting small and medium enterprises, creative industries, craftsmanship, and technological development to Azerbaijan through education and research, playing an important role in training future professionals for the strategic sectors of our economy, particularly in engineering, agriculture and food industry, architecture, and design.

The foundation of the university's new campus was laid in 2022 in Baku with the participation of the foreign ministers of both countries. The first master's students were admitted in 2023. Currently, 538 undergraduate and 102 graduate students are enrolled in 8 bachelor's and 2 master's programs offered here. Three of these programs are dual-degree programs.

Academic programs span disciplines such as electrical and electronics engineering, architecture, interior and communication design, urban planning, agricultural and food technologies, animal science, and management. In addition, the university offers professional development and certificate programs for specialists.

Alongside classrooms, the academic buildings will also host 6 research and 7 teaching laboratories, established in collaboration with the University of Bologna and the Politecnico di Milano, and based on modern technologies. The facilities also include a materials library, urban planning and landscape, and photo-video studios, as well as various design workshops. The newly established Fabrication Hall serves as a space for the practical continuation of classes, equipped with technological and digital tools for working with different types of materials. It is a shared environment where students and researchers collaborate. The outcomes of their joint work will be transferred to industry and businesses through a dedicated Design and Creativity Center. In short, this is a hub where education and research merge with the real business world.

The campus also houses a symbolic “Bazaar,” reflecting Azerbaijan’s place on the historic Silk Road. Once a year, students and faculty will present their projects in this space, showcasing their ideas to the business community. These exhibitions will serve the purpose of fostering the so-called Triple Helix collaboration among universities, industry, and government at both national and international levels.

The implementation of this project is a testament to the high level of cooperation between our countries in the humanitarian sphere and reflects the sincerity of our relations. It also represents support for Azerbaijani education through Italy’s experience in this field.

Following the tour, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva, and President of the Italian Republic Sergio Mattarella met with high-level representatives of Italian universities, as well as professors and students of the Italy–Azerbaijan University.