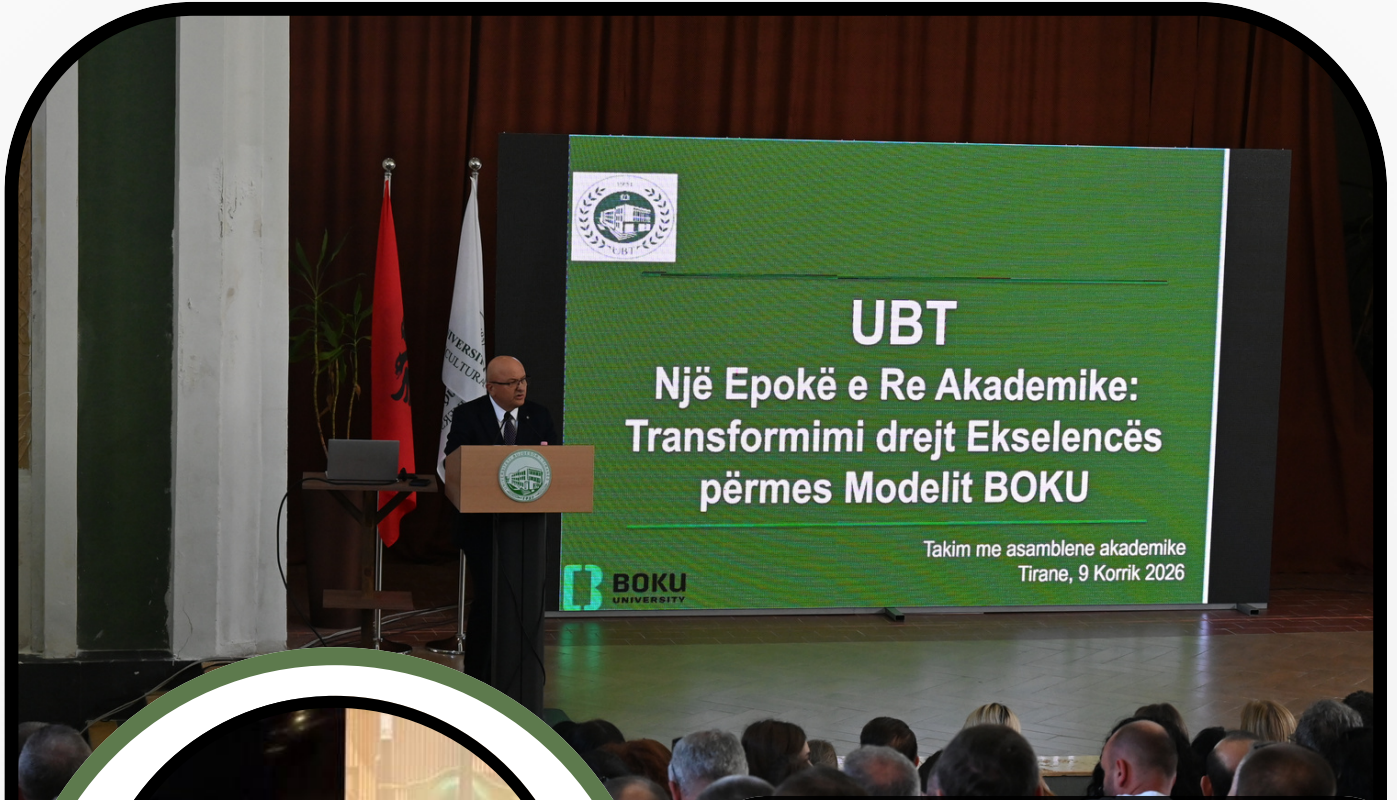


AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA

**Petra Winter Praises UBT: Faculty of Veterinary Medicine on Par with European Universities**

"I am convinced that UBT has carried out a curriculum transformation that places it on the same level as its European counterpart universities and is very well positioned for accreditation by the EAEVE," said Petra Winter.

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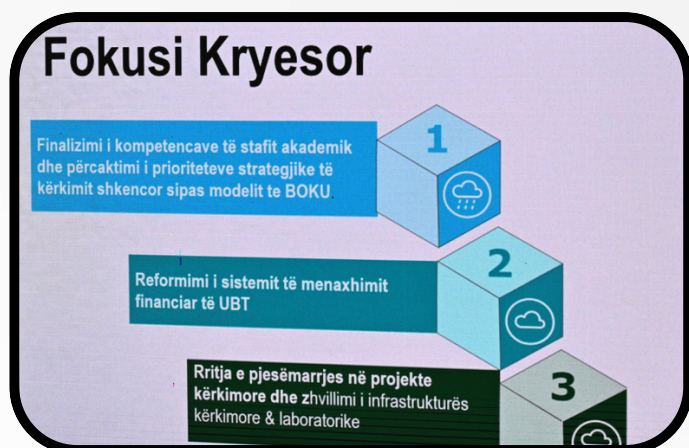
UBT's Achievements and Strategic Priorities at the Close of the Academic Year

At the conclusion of the 2025–2026 academic year, UBT held the general meeting of its Academic Assembly and administrative staff, where the institution's most significant developments, achievements over the past year, and strategic priorities were presented. The Rector of UBT Prof. Dr. Fatbardh Sallaku outlined the university's vision for academic transformation, inspired by the model of the BOKU University, emphasizing that the university is entering a new era of development founded on quality, international standards, and academic excellence. **More in the following page**

UBT Presents Its Achievements and Strategic Priorities at the General Assembly



The Rector presented UBT's new academic framework for the 2026–2027 academic year, which includes 12 Bachelor's programs, 17 Master of Science programs, 2 Executive Master's programs—one of them newly introduced—and 5 doctoral programs currently undergoing review in line with the new accreditation standards. A significant part of the presentation focused on the reform of the university's academic portfolio. According to the Rector, the objective is not to reduce the number of programs but to transform UBT's academic philosophy by enhancing quality, aligning with international standards, and developing new programs that address the evolving needs of the labor market and the country's development priorities.



During the presentation, the intensive work carried out over recent months to revise the university's study programs was highlighted. A total of 30 workshops were organized with the participation of UBT academic staff and experts from BOKU, while more than 1,000 hours of academic work were invested in analyzing, reviewing, and developing the new Bachelor's programs. Rector Sallaku also presented the university's achievements in scientific research and international projects. Currently, UBT has 24 projects in the contract-signing phase for 2026, with a success rate of approximately 90%.



The university's strategic priorities in the field of scientific research were also presented. These include strengthening institutional research policies, reforming the financial management system, modernizing doctoral studies in line with the BOKU model, increasing participation in national and international research projects, and further developing research and laboratory infrastructure.

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President of EAVE, Petra Winter: The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine on Par with European Universities

The Agricultural University of Tirana has received significant recognition from Petra Winter, President of the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE), who described the transformation of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine as an achievement that places the university on the same level as its European counterparts. During a working retreat held in Vlora, where progress in curriculum reform was analyzed, Winter praised UBT's commitment to aligning the study program with the Day One Competences (D1Cs) and EAEVE standards. "I am convinced that UBT has carried out a curriculum transformation that places it on the same level as its European counterpart universities and is very well positioned for accreditation by EAEVE," Petra Winter stated in a LinkedIn post. She emphasized that it was inspiring to witness the concrete impact of EAEVE standards on curriculum reform, highlighting the sincerity and professionalism with which strengths and challenges were identified throughout the process. Winter expressed special appreciation to the academic staff of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine for their dedication and commitment.

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Agriculture as a priority sector requires technology and innovation



The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Andis Salla

In this episode, the discussion focuses on policies for modernising agriculture, enhancing the competitiveness of Albanian farmers, strengthening food security, and promoting the use of technology and innovation in agricultural production, as well as Albania's priorities in the context of European integration. A significant part of the conversation is dedicated to the collaboration between public institutions and the UBT in advancing scientific research, facilitating knowledge transfer, and preparing the next generation of specialists

Watch the full podcast...

Choose a degree that opens the doors to your future!



In this special episode of UBT Talk, the Rector of the Agricultural University of Tirana (UBT), Prof. Dr. Fatbardh Sallaku, addresses high school graduates as they make one of the most important decisions about their future.

He highlights that UBT students earn a degree aligned with European standards, comparable to those awarded to their peers across the European Union. With a modern campus, a reformed academic offer, and strong connections to the labour market, UBT is committed to providing students with real opportunities for employment and professional development after graduation.

Watch the full podcast...



The Agricultural University of Tirana signs a cooperation agreement with UBT in Kosovo

The Agricultural University of Tirana continues to expand its international partnerships by signing a cooperation agreement with UBT in Kosovo. The agreement was signed by the Rector of the Agricultural University of Tirana, Prof. Dr. Fatbardh Sallaku, and the Rector of UBT, Prof. Dr. Edmond Hajrizi, with the aim of strengthening collaboration in higher education, scientific research, innovation, and academic exchange.

As part of this partnership, a delegation from the Agricultural University of Tirana, led by Rector Prof. Dr. Fatbardh Sallaku, paid an official visit to the UBT campus in Kosovo. During the visit, the delegation toured the Science, Innovation and Technology Park, laboratories, innovation centres, and the university's modern infrastructure, exchanging experiences on institutional development and best practices in higher education.

During the meeting, the leadership of both universities discussed opportunities for joint research projects, the development of joint academic programmes, student and staff mobility, and the expansion of cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

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Editorial | Why Should Young Albanians Choose Agriculture?

Everyone dreams of having a farm—an oasis where life is quieter, away from the chaos of the city, and where they can nurture a passion for flowers, trees, and animals. Some imagine building it after retirement, while others dream of starting their lives there. For many years, agriculture has been perceived by young people as a sector of the past, associated with physically demanding work, limited career opportunities, and low wages. Yet the future tells a different story. Tomorrow's farmer is likely to spend more time working on a laptop than driving a tractor. Agriculture today is about much more than farming itself. It offers career opportunities in marketing, communications, business, environmental sciences, veterinary medicine, food technology, and international trade.

The reality in Albania—and beyond—is that agriculture remains one of the most strategic and in-demand sectors. It continues to be a cornerstone of the Albanian economy, contributing around 18% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), a significantly higher share than the European Union average. For many Albanians, agriculture remains the primary source of income. At the same time, one of the sector's greatest challenges is the shortage of young professionals. The average age of farmers across Europe continues to rise, and Albania is experiencing the same trend. Today's labour market is increasingly seeking agronomists, veterinarians, environmental engineers, food technologists, and rural development experts.

Traditional tools such as hoes, ploughs, and shovels are gradually being replaced by advanced technologies that are transforming the sector. One of the strongest reasons for young people to study agriculture is precisely this technological revolution. Drones for crop monitoring, artificial intelligence for data analysis, irrigation sensors, and many other innovations are modernising agriculture, making farming more efficient and significantly improving everyday work.

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UBT Promotes Academic Excellence

As part of its commitment to academic excellence, the Agricultural University of Tirana (UBT) continues to promote high-quality research and scientific achievement.

During June, the Faculty of Agriculture and Environment hosted the public presentation of the scientific research activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmond Hala, from the Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries, as part of the procedure for obtaining the academic title of Professor. His presentation highlighted years of research in aquaculture and fisheries, focusing on the reproductive biology and management of economically important marine species. Among the featured studies was research on the reproductive maturation of meagre (*Argyrosomus regius*) in sea cages, conducted in collaboration with the Histology Laboratory of the Department of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Bari "Aldo Moro", Italy.

More recently, UBT also hosted the public defence of the doctoral dissertation entitled "Land Suitability Assessment for Cereal Cultivation and Agricultural Mechanisation Using GIS-Based Multi-Criteria Analysis" by MSc. Olsid Mema, under the scientific supervision of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Etleva Jojiç. The research explores the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and multi-criteria analysis to identify the most suitable areas for cereal cultivation and agricultural mechanisation. During the public defence, the dissertation was highly praised by the evaluation committee for its scientific quality, innovative approach, and application of modern spatial analysis methods.

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UBT Awards Six Academic Titles of Professor and Associate Professor

The Academic Staff Promotion Committee (KPPA), in cooperation with the Directorate of Science and Academic Promotion (DSHPA) at the Agricultural University of Tirana (UBT), held its latest meeting as part of the academic promotion procedures, in accordance with the applicable legislation.

During the meeting, the Committee reviewed the candidates' dossiers and heard presentations delivered in English by six applicants seeking the academic titles of Professor and Associate Professor. Following the evaluation of each candidate's academic and scientific achievements and the verification of the required standards, the Committee unanimously approved the awarding of six academic titles.

The academic title of Professor was awarded to:

- Prof. Dr. Oltjana Zoto, Faculty of Economics and Agribusiness, Agricultural University of Tirana;
- Prof. Dr. Skënder Uku, Faculty of Economics and Agribusiness, Agricultural University of Tirana;
- Prof. Dr. Edmond Hala, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, Agricultural University of Tirana.

The academic title of Associate Professor was awarded to:

- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dhurata Shehu, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, Agricultural University of Tirana;
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jonida Biçoku, Aleksandër Xhuvani University, Elbasan;
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teuta Çerpja, Aleksandër Moisiu University, Durrës.

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Information Session at UBT on AADF-BMF Research Grants for Academic Staff

The Agricultural University of Tirana hosted an information session dedicated to the research grant programme funded by the Albanian-American Development Foundation (AADF) in collaboration with the Butrint Management Foundation (BMF). The event aimed to inform UBT's academic and research staff about funding opportunities, application criteria, and priority areas for support, while encouraging the university's researchers to participate in research projects with national and international impact. [Read more...](#)



UBT Welcomes American Entomologist Dr. Vinton Thompson



The Agricultural University of Tirana (UBT), through its Department of Plant Protection, in collaboration with the Institute of Plant Genetic Resources, welcomed Dr. Vinton Thompson, an entomologist at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, USA, for an open lecture. The lecture focused on insect vectors and their role in the spread of *Xylella fastidiosa*, one of the world's most dangerous plant pathogenic bacteria, which affects strategically important crops such as olive trees and grapevines. Dr. Thompson provided valuable insights into the biology of insect vectors, the epidemiology of the disease, and international experiences in monitoring and managing this pathogen, which poses a significant economic threat to agriculture. [Read more...](#)

