



## AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA



### Meet the top-performing students of the 2025 academic year

The Agricultural University of Tirana recognized the top-performing students of 2025 as models of success and academic dedication, highlighting their importance in promoting quality and the tradition of excellence at the university.

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### UBT graduates 1,500 students amid emotions and inspiration for the future

The graduation ceremony at the Agricultural University of Tirana was held in a festive and emotional atmosphere, where over 1,500 students successfully completed their studies. The event was also attended by high-level state representatives, including Ministers Mirela Kumbaro and Andis Salla. Rector Prof. Dr. Fatbardh Sallaku praised the graduates, while entrepreneur Altin Prenga inspired them to become innovators in the agricultural sector. The ceremony featured artistic performances and culminated with the distribution of diplomas and the symbolic throwing of caps. **Read more on the next page...**

# A colorful graduation ceremony



The graduation ceremony was a moment of great pride and joy for the Agricultural University of Tirana, as over 1,500 students successfully completed an important stage of their academic journey and took their first steps toward new professional challenges.

The ceremony was honored by the presence of Mirela Kumbaro, Minister of Education, and Andis Salla, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. In their welcoming remarks, they highlighted the role of higher education and UBT in the country's development, encouraging graduates to contribute to key sectors of the economy.



In his welcoming speech, the Rector of UBT, Prof. Dr. Fatbardh Sallaku, emphasized the importance of this milestone for both the students and the university, underlining that today's graduates are a valuable asset for the country's future and a reflection of the quality of education offered by UBT.

An inspiring message was delivered by renowned entrepreneur Altin Prenga, a UBT alumnus and founder of Mrizi i Zanave, who encouraged students to become "agriculture influencers" by promoting the values of the land and the sector's potential in a modern and innovative way.



An artistic and festive dimension brought added vibrancy to the ceremony through the performance of student Ibrahim Rustemaj, together with the ensemble of the Qemal Stafa School Ensemble, who performed traditional dances, bringing Albanian rhythms and heritage to the stage. The ceremony was also marked by the awarding of certificates of appreciation to 12 students, honored for their outstanding achievements and serving as inspiring role models for the entire student community.

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### UBT's top-performing students for the 2025 academic year

The Agricultural University of Tirana continues to strengthen its tradition of academic excellence by recognizing high-achieving and top-performing students for the 2025 academic year.

Among them are Adela Bushi, Arlind Qoli, Belinda Dhami, Estela Pinderi, Erta Cali, Fjona Allko, Gledis Sina, Letisia Muça, Mateo Lazri, Uendi Gjata, Sergej Qama, and Rabie Ahmetaj, who have achieved outstanding results and have been acknowledged for their dedication to their studies.

In total, 13 students were named top performers for 2025, representing the highest level of academic achievement at the university. In particular, the title of absolute top student was awarded to Klea Ramaliu Lena, who embodies the pinnacle of academic excellence at UBT and serves as an inspiring role model for all students.

UBT remains committed to shaping a new generation of qualified professionals who will contribute not only to the development of the agriculture and life sciences sectors but also to the overall progress of the country. The high-achieving and top-performing students of 2025 are a clear testament to this mission. **Read more...**



# Scientific Research, UBT-AADF Strategic Agreement



*The initiative aims to strengthen the capacities of higher education institutions for scientific research*

The Agricultural University of Tirana and the Albanian-American Development Foundation (AADF) formalized a strategic partnership that advances a shared vision for strengthening higher education and scientific research in Albania.

At the core of this agreement is the implementation of the Research Expertise from the Academic Diaspora (READ) program and its new component, BRIDGE—an initiative fully funded and conceived by AADF. [\*\*Read more...\*\*](#)



## UBT and IKMT join forces for territory and the environment

During April, UBT also signed a cooperation agreement with the National Inspectorate for Territory Protection, creating more opportunities for internships, training, and employment for students, particularly those from the Faculty of Forestry Sciences. One of the key components of the agreement is the engagement of UBT's academic staff in the training and professional qualification of IKMT inspectors. [\*\*Read more...\*\*](#)





### UBT TALK – Ruzhdi Koni: From a Dream of Becoming a Footballer to Success in Modern Agriculture

Ruzhdi Koni once dreamed of becoming a footballer. His studies at the Agricultural University of Tirana were not driven by passion, but rather by a system-imposed choice before the 1990s.

Over time, however, he realized that the profession of an agronomist would offer him a life he had never imagined. After establishing his first collection point and working as a fruit and vegetable trader, Ruzhdiu recognized that the future of his business required a new direction.

In 2007, he founded the “Agro Koni” nursery, which today produces a wide range of vegetables and collaborates with over 2,000 farmers across Albania who have contractual partnerships with the company. **Watch the full video...**

### UBT–BOKU 2030 presented as a model of university collaboration in the international publication Trigon Themen

The cooperation between the Agricultural University of Tirana and the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU) has been presented as a successful model of institutional transformation in the international publication Trigon Themen 01/26. According to this publication, the UBT–BOKU 2030 project represents an advanced approach to organizational development and international academic collaboration.

Trigon Themen is a professional periodical published by Trigon Entwicklungsberatung, focusing on organizational development, leadership, and inter-institutional cooperation, featuring concrete cases from business, the public sector, and universities across Europe. According to the publication, the UBT–BOKU 2030 project aims to position the Agricultural University of Tirana as a modern life sciences university by 2030, through a comprehensive transformation encompassing governance, teaching, scientific research, and international cooperation. **Read more...**





## **Towards Excellence: UBT launches the first wave of PhD defenses in strategic scientific fields**

PhD candidates Adri Erebara, Anjeza Bekolli, Elvis Kamberi, and Gladiola Malollari successfully completed their doctoral studies under the joint supervision of distinguished professors from Germany, Spain, and Italy.

Their academic work was further strengthened through research stays and collaborations with renowned European institutions, including the University of Hohenheim, the University of Split, the University of Hamburg, the University of Alicante, the University of Molise, and the Leibniz Institute for Tropospheric Research in Leipzig, Germany. These experiences are clearly reflected in their international publications and overall scientific output.

Their doctoral research addresses highly significant and impactful topics:

- The potential of blue carbon storage in Albanian coastal lagoons and its role in climate change mitigation (Adri Erebara).
- The application of cooperative game theory in agri-food value chains for fair and efficient value distribution (Anjeza Bekolli).
- The long-term impacts of climate change and fishing pressure on marine ecosystems in the Adriatic Sea (Elvis Kamberi).
- Advanced profiling of atmospheric aerosols and air quality assessment through ground-based and satellite lidar technologies (Gladiola Malollari).

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## UBT and partnerships for the future of agriculture at "Agriculture Days 2026"

The Agricultural University of Tirana participated in the international agriculture fair "Agriculture Days 2026," held in Lushnje, presenting itself as one of the leading institutions of knowledge and innovation in Albania's agri-food sector. At its stand, the university showcased its new bachelor programs, fully revised and aligned with European standards under the supervision of the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna.

From UBT, Prof. Dr. Endrit Kullaj and Prof. Dr. Valbona Hobdari from the Institute of Plant Genetic Resources contributed to discussion panels, sharing insights on agricultural development and the role of scientific research.



At the panel organized by GIZ Albania, the Director of the Institute of Plant Genetic Resources highlighted the importance of preserving and promoting indigenous seeds as a national asset and a foundation for sustainable agriculture. [Read more...](#)



## UBT part of the 5th nationwide academic and scientific book fair in Tirana

The Agricultural University of Tirana took part in the 5th nationwide academic and scientific book fair, held at the premises of the Academy of Sciences of Albania, bringing together academic institutions, researchers, and students from Albania and the region.

UBT was represented with its stand featuring academic and scientific publications, which attracted significant interest from visitors throughout the first day of the fair. [Read more...](#)





### UBT reaches the quarterfinals in futsal and basketball

The sports teams of the Agricultural University of Tirana achieved a notable milestone in university sports, advancing to the quarterfinal stage in both futsal and basketball at the Tirana University Tournament 2026.

This success reflects the commitment and competitive spirit of the students, who faced some of the top universities and secured a place in the most decisive phase of the competition, proudly representing their university in both disciplines. [Read more...](#)



### From theory to the field: UBT students in a field practice in Ulëz

First- and second-year students carried out a field practice in the Ulëz area as part of the courses in Phytopathology and Forest Entomology, under the guidance of Prof. Ramiz Metalia. The aim of this practice was to gain first-hand knowledge of plant diseases and insects that affect forest ecosystems.



During the activity, students observed various types of pests and disease symptoms in trees. Such activities are essential for the training of future forestry engineers and for raising awareness about the importance of protecting natural ecosystems. [Read more...](#)



# International visitors at UBT



## Students from Turkey attend a lecture on biosafety at UBT

The Agricultural University of Tirana welcomed a group of seven students from Turkey, who attended a special lecture on biosafety in veterinary practices delivered by Prof. Dr. Xhelil Koleci at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. [Read more...](#)

The students also shared their impressions from their several-day stay in Albania during a visit to the UBT Rectorate, praising the hospitality, academic experience, and university environment, and noting that they are leaving with the best impressions from this experience.

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## Professor from Poland shares his experience at UBT: Focus on innovation and the future of agriculture

Professor Marek Gaworski from the Warsaw University of Life Sciences visited the Agricultural University of Tirana under the international Erasmus+ Programme, bringing a contemporary perspective on developments in the agricultural sector.

During his stay at UBT, Prof. Gaworski delivered a lecture to students, where he shared his expertise in dairy production, one of his main specializations. He emphasized the importance of integrating technology into agriculture, highlighting the challenges and the need for modernization in the sector.



He praised the conditions offered by UBT for study and scientific research, highlighting its modern infrastructure and well-equipped laboratories as key elements for academic development. [Watch the video...](#)