



University "Aleksandër Moisiu" Durrës





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History

University “Aleksandër Moisiu” in Durrës (UAMD) was established by the Council of Ministers Decision *No. 801 on 20.12.2005* and is one of 11 public universities in Albania. In October 2006, more than 1,000 students started their first academic year on the premises of this university named for the actor of Albanian descent, Alexandër Moissi. Today the university encounters almost 20000 students.

The university is located in the ancient city of Durrës, historically known as *Epidamnos* and *Dyrrachium*. As the second most populated city in Albania, and located by the Adriatic Sea, Durrës is one of the country's most ancient, economic, and historic centers. Founded by Greek colonists from Corinth and Corfu under the name *Epidamnos* in the 7th century BCE, the city initially became an integral part of the Roman Empire and its successor, the Byzantine Empire. The *Via Egnatia* started in the city and led across the interior of the Balkan Peninsula to *Constantinople* in the east.



*Durrës Castle 491-518



*Old Wall of Durrës city

University Structure and Governing Bodies

The highest governing body of UAMD is the Academic Senate, lead by a Rector and comprised of professors and staff who hold PhDs. The leading academic authorities are the Rector, the Deans of the faculties, and the department heads in each faculty.

The highest administrative governing body is the Administrator, along with the administrators of each faculty.

Prof. Dr. Mrs Kseanela Sotirofski is the **Rector** of UAMD, representing the highest academic authority of the university as well as the legal representative for academic and protocol issues as defined by the law.

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Vision

The university aims to continuously achieve the highest national and international academic standards as well as support the educational aspirations and achievements of anyone who wants to benefit from higher education.

The UAMD is widely known for its teaching quality and the effectiveness of its scientific research, placing it among Albania's most important scientific institutions, where students and academic staff are an active part of the community.

Mission

The university aims to foster and develop critical and analytical thinking as well as a sense of responsibility and commitment to humanity, community, culture, events, and various issues that citizens and the community face. The UAMD encompasses a set of interlinked principles and approaches that include:

- expand the knowledge and skills essential for personal transformation;
- professional success and improving the common good of all citizens through promoting a dynamic environment;
- enable transparency and creativity for fostering the preparation of our students to become active citizens and creative leaders;
- willingness to provide innovative solutions to local, regional, and national challenges.

Strategic Priorities

The university's **Strategic Development Plan 2016-2020** defines the following new priorities:

Ensuring qualitative teaching and student success

This strategic priority embraces the quality and relevance of teaching and learning in the three study cycles by developing a new student mentoring approach to follow the progress of academic plans for each student; thus, supporting their skills for a successful career. The critical elements of this priority are:

- Promote critical thinking and problem-solving skills;



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- Motivate and prepare students to acquire new study experiences in universities in the region and beyond, through student mobility programs, volunteer or paid employment), by gaining knowledge and fruitful approaches to their studies and careers;
- Create the possibility of involving students in the research-study areas of academic staff, enabling the growth of research and gaining knowledge exchange.
- Cooperate with entrepreneurs, professionals, former students, and various interest groups to ensure the sensitivity and suitability of our study programs to the demands of the labor market and the needs of students;
- Enhance and support contemporary forms of distance education;
- Enable staff to acquire new technologies as supporters of the training process;
- Introduce and develop a flexible learning system; and
- Solicit student feedback on lecturers for mutual improvement of the education system as well as improving the quality of UAMD's lecturers.

Excellence in teaching and research

This strategic priority focuses on the quality management of student learning processes by focusing on a higher level of quality of research that is expected to include doctoral students. For this purpose, the university promotes and supports a successful, responsive, and interactive scientific community that can generate ideas and create research-development areas with community-based knowledge. This knowledge takes into account up-to-date cultural and environmental considerations; thus, responding to the needs of the community and enhancing the well-being of society.

Steps for achieving this strategic priority:

- Promote new cross-disciplinary research approaches by including and cooperating with research institutions within and outside the university;
- Increase the level of cooperation with Albanian and international universities and exchange experiences;
- Establish an efficient and effective organizational structure through a positive, inviting, and encouraging internal culture that promotes experimentation and innovation;
- Contribute to the implementation of sustainable development through research and use of supporting technologies;
- Increase and promote the scientific research activities and expertise obtained at the national and regional levels;
- Support and increase the impact of scientific research through public engagement and knowledge transfer;
- Optimize the success of scientific research through the promotion and dissemination of findings of interdisciplinary research;
- Increase financial support for participation at international professional conferences and publications in scientific journals;

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Active participation in projects at national and international levels focusing on promotion of the public-private partnership

The university has a recent yet fruitful history as an internationally focused academic institution. It has demonstrated that it can act quickly and flexibly to make the most of international opportunities.

The UAMD's recent success with projects—both as a partner and as a leader—demonstrate that the university is on the right path to gain, distribute, and transfer applied academic knowledge. By seeking mutual benefit for the university, the community, and stakeholders, the UAMD will achieve a pre-eminent position in the field of innovative research. Involving students and partners in these processes increases mutual recognition and appreciation as well as applies the knowledge gained to the development of a single career.

The university promotes short-term exchanges for academic staff and students with foreign higher-education institutions as a partner country within the European Union's Erasmus+ program.

Objectives:

- Establish regular cooperation among staff representatives of the core Faculties, the university, and the national Erasmus+ office in Albania to ensure the success of joint projects and activities;
- Prepare project proposals and applications for funding from the National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation (KCAI), according to the priority areas of scientific research, technology, and innovation;
- Organize international scientific conferences in cooperation with other institutions, thematic seminars and scientific research activities, where alternatives to community-based solutions to the research and development of staff are presented;
- Support and encourage collaborative projects with universities and NGOs, for mutual recognition of research achievements and their implementation in the local environment;
- Encourage students and staff to liaison with relevant public and private actors, as well as the community, in research and innovative policies as part of their activities, thus creating a favorable environment for increasing the impact of work through joint projects;
- Increase efficiency in the creation, calculation, and capitalization of intellectual property;
- Develop long-term relationships and strategies with business organizations and economic communities by focusing on common proactive policies for the mutual benefit of our strategic partners and stakeholder groups through the development of ongoing professional, contemporary, group and personalized training programs;
- Improve the technical infrastructure by encouraging financial support of innovative projects that can launch and implement "start-up" initiatives with mutual engagement and benefit from the university and stakeholders;
- Implement advanced technologies and adopt experiences that directly affect the economic development of the city, country, and region through the encouragement and support of initiatives that open the university's doors through access to new forms of study, resources, and materials—both academic and didactic.

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Students and alumni



The UAMD and its *Students and Alumni Counselling office* offers a variety of internships, employment, and training opportunities to students as well as to alumni. This office establishes and maintains contacts with several companies operating in the labour market, primarily in the Information Communication Technology (ICT) and accounting sectors.

Moreover, the office organises activities to enhance the life skills of students to prepare them for entering the labour market and teaching them how to develop a Curriculum Vitae and to conduct a competitive interview. These activities are organised in collaboration with companies (e.g., work fairs).

Also, this office processes all statistical data, including the number of current students, graduate students, academic staff, and scholarship students and periodically reports to the Ministry of Education and Sports regarding these data.

The UAMD proudly identifies well-acknowledged alumni who have made distinguished contributions in public life, such as Mrs. Odeta Nishani, the First Lady of Albania; Mr. Ilir Bejtja, Deputy Minister of Energy and Industry. It also identifies notable professors, such as Mr. Kristaq Kume, former Chairman of the Central Election Committee.

The UAMD aims to provide professionals, and all citizens, with added value in the offered fields of study so they may contribute toward a healthy society. The university will do this by promoting and instilling in their students the values of acceptance, tolerance, and respect for their country, members of the community in which they live and work, acceptance of diversity, and respect for the rights of everyone.

The UAMD is well known for its new approaches to education, academic teaching methods, university life, and scientific research. In a short period of time, the UAMD has gained respect and credibility, with more than 20,000 students attending UAMD's study programs each year. During the last 12 years, the UAMD has prepared professionals as well as valued citizens to contribute toward development of their communities.

The UAMD has experience in participating as a partner of choice in different international projects, scientific activities, programs and more, alongside other distinguished European and regional institutions, such as European universities, different international and national organizations, engaging with civil society as an important factor in local, regional, and national developments.

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The UAMD is the first public higher-education institution in Albania that has applied the *Integrated Students Management System (ISMS)*. This system provides the best technical infrastructure for reorganizing and sharing information with students and academic staff. The system further enhances effective communication and information sharing between students and academic staff and facilitates networking.



The UAMD encourages and supports its academic staff to continuously enrich their knowledge and advance in their scientific qualifications to offer quality and competitive study programs to students. The work of the staff is based on:

- *Scientific research; collecting empirical data; conducting studies on different social issues; studying perceptions, attitudes, and behavior of different social groups in which youth is the main focus;*
- *Evaluating, designing, organizing, adapting, and enriching the offered curricula to ensure it is up to date, appropriate, and advances the university's competitive position--and to fulfill the criteria required by educational laws;*
- *Organizing and participating in scientific conferences, offering trainings for different social groups, organizing workshops, and open lectures; and*
- *Publishing scientific articles and studies in scientific journals abroad and in university journals.*

Advantages of studying at the UAMD:

- ✚ *Students are the focus – **to the students - for the students - by the students;***
- ✚ *Highly qualified academic staff, experienced abroad, combining Albanian and foreign education and scientific research;*
- ✚ *Well-defined mission and objectives combined with mid-term Strategic Planning 2016 - 2020;*
- ✚ *Multicultural and collaborative environment;*
- ✚ *Internationalization of higher education through mobility exchange of students and academic staff;*
- ✚ *Program studies in accordance with rules and principles of the European Area of Higher Education.*

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Degrees are offered in two languages (Albanian and English) and the evaluation system is based on the European Credits Transfer System (ECTS) and the American Credit System. This facilitates the recognition of study periods and degrees and further adds to the university's objectives of mobility and internationalization.

According to internal statistical data, Faculty of Integrated studies with Practice (FASTIP) has the highest threshold of passing marks for the bachelor program, followed the Education Faculty; the Information Technology (IT) Faculty has the lowest threshold.

Students Integrated Management System (SIMS): Since 2010, the UAMD has operated SIMS, which enables data-integrated management for academic programs and the respective curricula. SIMS is based on a modular architecture offering personalized use according to UAMD needs. All Faculties use the system for managing the records of previous and current bachelor-level students. It also enables professors to insert and manage the grades for the subjects that are part of the active curricula. The number of students receiving scholarship during 2017-2018 is 50% higher than in the previous academic year.

The UAMD library functions according to international standards specified by the International Federation of Libraries, and its internal regulations. Using social networks for sharing information, especially those related to academic services, has made it possible for updated information to be accessed in real time by interested students.

The UAMD's active presence on social networks as well as its website provide updated information on various academic, scientific, educational, and social activities that have improved the university's public image and its perception by students and various stakeholders.

Students' Life: The UAMD is a student-centered university in that it supports and creates the necessary conditions for enabling students to organize activities, such as associations, clubs, and forums with potential, active students and alumni. Students are active participants in the following clubs:

1. Book Club
2. Mathematics Club
3. Start-Up UAMD
4. Diplomatic Club
5. Young Jurists Club
6. Debate Club
7. Multimedia and Photography Club
8. Film Club
9. Chess Club

Sports teams

1. Football team
2. Volleyball team (male/female)



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Scientific Research Strategy

Based on the 2015 Law on Higher Education and Scientific Research in Institutions of Higher Education, the UAMD is engaged in establishing the necessary infrastructure for the Scientific Research activity as one of the Strategic Priorities for 2016-2020.

The Council of Scientific Research, established in January 2018, has set the following priorities:

- Transform into a research-based university;
- Develop research-based assessment criteria for the university and orient all teaching and research work toward it;
- Create an academic community (at the department level, faculty, and beyond), that promotes research and publishing projects (for both individuals and groups as well as co-authorship) and organizes scientific-cultural activities;
- Integrate teaching with research as a necessity to face the challenges of university education;
- Create research structures in accordance with the requirements of Law 80/2015 and the UAMD Regulation;
- Relocate the research activity to the department and faculty level close to students;
- Implement the legal requirement for each department to manage basic research funds as well as other funds generated from legitimate, public or private national or international sources (Law 80/2015, Article 25, point 10);
- Establish scientific research priorities by each Faculty departments or centers;
- Create evaluation structures and mechanisms for the first time in the academic year 2017-2018, with points / credits and unified criteria of research and publishing activity for each member of the academic staff and each unit of UAMD;
- Involve students in scientific research as a "golden opportunity" for achieving the objectives of scientific research;
- Increase attention of the scientific research methodology and establish a fair relationship between theoretical knowledge and methodological knowledge; respect the ethical requirements of scientific research, in particular, avoiding plagiarism (which, among other things, may also disqualify the institution from increased funding of scientific research).

Internationalization of the University



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In the framework of integration in the **European Area of Higher Education**, (also Bologna Chart), the UAMD considers of utmost importance the participation as equal partners to projects relevant to fields of higher education, training, youth, and sport. Those projects will support the implementation of the UAMD Strategic Planning 2016-2020 and also contributing to tackle socio-economic challenges and overall contributions toward social cohesion, equity and economic growth. As of 2016, the university is implementing six projects. The UAMD is a lead partner in one of these projects in the ICT sector. The type of projects varies from Erasmus+, Interreg, and Europe for Citizens. Previous and current projects are listed below:

- ✓ Building Capacity for Structural Reform in Higher Education of Western Balkan Countries - University of Novi Sad, Serbia;
- ✓ Network for Post Graduate Masters in Cultural Heritage and Tourism Management in Balkan Countries - University Gabriele D' Annunzio in Chieti-Pescara, Italy;
- ✓ Innovation and implementation of the curriculum vocational studies in the field of digital television and multimedia - School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences Applied Studies in Belgrade, Serbia;
- ✓ Developing Third Mission Activities in Albanian Universities - University of Leon, Spain;
- ✓ Development of higher education and society by creating collaborative environment in the fields of arts and media through regional student partnership in production of audio/content - University of Arts in Belgrade, Serbia;
- ✓ Enhancing Albanian system of quality assurance in higher education: Application of the process and outcome-based methodology” - University Koblenz-Landau, Germany;
- ✓ Connecting Science– Society collaboration for sustainability innovations - University of Graz, Austria;
- ✓ Developing and Adapting professional programs for energy efficiency in the Western Balkans - Polis University, Albania;
- ✓ Introducing modules on law and rights in programmes of teacher training and educational sciences: a contribution to building rights-based education systems in countries in transition - Vrije University of Brussel, Belgium;
- ✓ Reacting European citizenship: a network for inclusive towns - ANCI Abruzzo Italy
- ✓ Developing Teacher Competencies for a Comprehensive VET System in the Albanian Region - University of Leon
- ✓ IT Governance for Albanian Universities - University of Balearic Islands
- ✓ Capacity Building Project Development and Implementation of the Multimedia Curriculum Region and Digital Television – UAMD lead

Also, the UAMD has signed more than 40 different inter-institutional agreements and memoranda of understanding with higher-education institutions abroad, including:

- University of “La Sapienza” Italy
- University of California, USA
- Middlesex University London, UK
- Kodalyi Janos University of Budapest, Hungary
- Riga Maritime Academy, Latvia
- University of Valencia, Spain
- Alegeos University, Greece

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- Danubius University of Galaty, Romania
- University of Cracow, Poland

Statistics and facts

The university opened its doors for the first time in the academic year 2006-2007 with approximately one thousand students from across the country. Today, the university counts about 20,000 students in the three study cycles.

With the opening of "Aleksandër Moisiu" University, the Albanian Government did not intend to open a new institution in the country, but to open a different institution that would bring the best Western academic experiences.

The philosophy of work at UAMD is "the student in the spotlight", which means that everything that happens in the university since the teaching process, services, activities and tools are in the service of the student. This is possible through a dedicated dynamic staff, a computerized environment that enables continuous contacts with the Western academic world and through extracurricular diverse activities.

The way of developing the learning process, knowledge control procedures, academic staff recruitment, student counseling, library service, and above all scientific research, are aimed at realizing a unique academic experience in the country that does not exclude any significant elements of European and American universities.

An innovation of "Aleksandër Moisiu" University, but also of the entire system of higher education is the opening of the Faculty of Integrated Practice Studies (FASTIP) in the academic year 2008-2009. This faculty is the product of a joint project of the German and Albanian governments, with the aim of building a faculty based on the best experience in the field of economics and management of the professional academy in Baden-Württemberg, Germany. The distinguishing feature in this faculty is the continuous combination of theoretical knowledge with practice in different companies by field of study. Teaching in this faculty is carried out by international professors and experts in relevant fields.

In the academic year 2009-2010, the University "Alexander Moisiu" expanded with a branch in the city of Peshkopi, where he studied 800 students. In the Peshkopi branch, first cycle study programs of the three main university units located in Durrës were opened.

By decision of the Council of Ministers no. 685, dated 25.08.2010 "On the reorganization of UAMD, at the beginning of the academic year 2010-2011, UAMD expanded with two new faculties, the Faculty of Political Science and the Faculty of Information Technology. Furthermore the main units of the University were reorganized, and it is now composed of six faculties: Faculty of Business, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Information Technology, Faculty of Political and Law Sciences, Faculty of Professional Studies, Faculty of Integrated Studies with Practice (FASTIP).

University Campus

The UAMD creates an appropriate infrastructure and environment to host students.

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Currila Campus – this space includes one library and four laboratories. It is the main campus hosting the administrative and academic staff from the following faculties: Faculty of Political Sciences and Law, Faculty of Information and Communication Technology, Faculty of Professional Studies, Faculty of Education, and Faculty of Political and Judicial Sciences. During the academic year, with the overall aim to be close to the students, these faculties will be located at the newest campus in the Spitalla Area.



The hall of the Currila campus

Spitallë Campus - The new campus was inaugurated on 5 June 2013. Built on 55 hectares, it features: two large conference halls with a capacity of 220-330 seats, three computer labs, 26 auditoriums with a capacity of 3,000-3,500 students, library, reading and internet rooms, 16 offices for academic staff and 8 administrative offices, as well as the Meeting Hall of the Scientific Council--all of these facilities are equipped with ventilation and heating systems, underground parking as well as 5,000 square meters of green space.



Institutional Accreditation

In April 2017, by the Albanian Quality Assurance Agency of Higher Education, the UAMD was **accredited at the institutional level** for the period 2017-2021.

The accreditation was the result of an evaluation process conducted in collaboration with the **British Agency of Accreditation** and the **Albanian Quality Assurance Agency**.

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Higher-education accreditation is a type of quality assurance process under which services and operations of **educational** institutions or programs are evaluated by an external body to determine if applicable standards are met.

Faculties and Study Programs

At the beginning of the academic year 2017- 2018, more than 12,665 students studied in the first full-time cycle, 1,859 students in the first part-time cycle, 4,747 students in the second cycle, and 15 students in the third cycle. In total, there were 19,286 students studying at UAMD.

Given the market needs as well as continuous curricular improvements, depending on student needs and as a result of legal obligations during 2018, the opening of new study programs was proposed by almost all of the UAMD's faculties with the purpose of adapting to the provisions of the new bylaws endorsed in 2018 with focus on the elements of study programs.

Today, there are 6 faculties with the following programs:

Faculty of Business

The faculty consists of these basic units (departments):

1. Finance-Accounting Department
2. Department of Management
3. Marketing Department
4. Department of Economic Sciences
5. Department of Tourism

During this academic year, the Faculty of Business was reorganized for the following programs:

1. Hotel-Restaurant Management
2. Cultural Tourism Management
3. Archeological Tourism Management
4. Economic Science
5. Banking-Finance
6. Business Administration
7. Marketing Management
8. Finance-Accounting

The Faculty of Business offers the following programs:

- 2 part-time study programs in the first cycle of studies:
Business Administration and Accounting.

Master-level studies:

- 5 study programs at the second cycle, Master of Science:
Business Management, Marketing Management, Business Economics, Banking-Finance, Industry



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Security and Risk Management.

- 6 second-cycle study programs, professional master:

Business Management, Management-Marketing, SME Management, Banking-Finance, Life Insurance, Non-Life and Maritime Insurance, Adriatic Cultural Heritage Management

Currently, 5 new study programs are in the process of opening on the second cycle of master's degrees in science and professional master:

1. Direction of Tourist Companies
2. Albanian Tourist Guide
3. Finance Accounting
4. Search Management and Marketing
5. Human Resources Management

PhD level studies:

4 study programs in the third cycle, doctorate:

1. Banking-Finance
2. Economics and Marketing Management
3. Business Management

Faculty of Education

For the first cycle of bachelor studies:

1. Preschool Education
2. English language
3. German and English languages
4. English Language Literature
5. Elementary Education
6. Psychology,
7. Philosophy-Sociology

For the second cycle of Master of Science:

1. Continuing Education
2. Management and Supervision of Educational Institutions
3. Teacher for Elementary Education in Albanian Language and Literature - English Language
4. Social Sciences Teacher

For the second cycle of master of professional studies:

1. Elementary Education Teacher
2. Didactics
3. Teacher for Albanian Language and Literature
4. English Language Teacher
5. Social and Community Services

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In this second study cycle, the opening of a new study program was proposed:

1. School and Development Psychology

Faculty of Political and Judicial Sciences

During the academic year 2017-2018 the curricula were reorganized as follows:

For the first cycle of bachelor studies:

1. Political Science
2. Public Relations
3. History
4. Public Administration
5. Economic Policy
6. Justice

For the second cycle of Master of Science:

1. International Relations and diplomacy
2. Public Administration
3. Financial Administration
4. Private Law
5. International Public Law

In this study cycle, the opening of a new study program was proposed:

1. Criminal Law

For the second cycle of master professional studies:

1. Fair Property
2. International Trade Law
3. Maritime Law
4. Public Administration
5. Financial Administration
6. Tourism Direction

In this study cycle, the opening of a new study program was proposed:

1. Public Policy
2. Public Communication

PhD level of studies:

1. Public Administration

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In this study cycle, the opening of a new executive master was proposed:

1. Leadership and Public Policy

Faculty of Professional Studies

During the academic year 2017-2018, the curricula were reorganized as follows:

Professional Programs (2-year - 120 ECTS):

1. Building Management
2. Waterworks and Sanitation Hydro-technics
3. Electrical Engineering
4. Sea / Land Transport Management
5. Automotive Technology
6. Computer Network Specialist
7. Practical Informatics
8. Legal Assistant
9. Administrative Assistant
10. Assistant dentist.

First Cycle Study Programs (Bachelor -180 ECTS):

1. Navigation and Maritime Management
2. General Nursing
3. Physiotherapy
4. Midwife

Second Cycle Study Programs:

1. Professional Master in "Surgical Nursing"

Faculty of Information Technology

During the academic year 2017-2018 the curricula were reorganized as follows:

For the first cycle of bachelor studies:

1. Computer Science
2. Information Systems
3. Information Technology
4. Informatics-English
5. Mathematics - Informatics
6. Multimedia & Digital TV

For the second Master of Science and professional studies:

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1. Applied Computer Sciences (MSc)
2. Applied Computer Sciences (PM)

In this study cycle, the opening of a new study program was proposed:

1. Multimedia & Digital TV (MP)

Faculty of Integrated Studies with practice (FASTIP)

The core of this faculty is: "integrating the academic knowledge gained in the faculty with professional training in businesses (dual education)."

Immediately after the end of the three-year program of study, FASTIP students receive:

- Bachelor's degree (180 credits (ECTS) issued by the UAMD), which allows students to continue studying in masters programs at home or abroad.
- Work contract by the company where the student has conducted vocational training for three years in line with the academic performance and practical work.

The faculty consists of these departments:

1. Banking Management
2. Hotel-Tourism Management
3. Management of Small and Medium Enterprises

The programs that the Faculty of Integrated Studies with Practice (FASTIP) offers are:

1. Banking Management
2. Hotel-Tourism Management
3. Management of Small and Medium Enterprises.

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