

---

French-Azerbaijani University (UFAZ) opened on September 15.

Participants in the opening ceremony included Minister of Education Mikayil Jabbarov, French ambassador to Azerbaijan Aurelia Bouchez, Director for European and International Relations and Cooperation at the French Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research Marianne de Brunhoff, University of Strasbourg Vice-President in charge of international relations Francis Kern, UFAZ professors and teachers, students and parents.

Minister of Education Mikayil Jabbarov congratulated teachers and students on the opening of UFAZ. He said reforms contributed to quality changes in all pillars and levels of education. "According to results of the entrance exams to higher education institutions conducted by the State Examination Center of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 143 out of nearly 300 entrants who scored over 500 points in the 1st group exams were admitted to UFAZ. Of them, 120 people were enrolled on a free basis, while 23 entrants were given fee-based places."

French ambassador to Azerbaijan Aurelia Bouchez, Director for European and International Relations and Cooperation at the French Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research Marianne de Brunhoff, University of Strasbourg Vice-President in charge of international relations Francis Kern highlighted relations and cooperation between the two countries in the field of education. They also expressed their confidence that the activity of UFAZ will be a success.

After the speeches, participants of the ceremony toured UFAZ. The guests were informed of the teaching process at the university.

A joint initiative of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and President of the French Republic Francois Hollande, UFAZ marks a new era in the development of relations between the two countries. French-Azerbaijani University was established on the basis of Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University in accordance with a letter of intent on cooperation signed by the minister of education of the Republic of Azerbaijan and French minister of national education, higher education and research as part of the French President's visit to Azerbaijan on April 25, 2015 and an Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the execution of "Joint Azerbaijan-French University (UFAZ)" project dated June 9, 2016.

The main goal of UFAZ is to prepare highly-qualified specialists capable of contributing to Azerbaijan's development in socio-economic area, and particularly in the fields of science and advanced technologies.

French-Azerbaijani University announced enrollment in four disciplines in 2016/2017 academic year: Chemical Engineering (State Oil and Industry University and Strasbourg University), Computer Science (State Oil and Industry University and Strasbourg University), Geophysical Engineering (State Oil and Industry University and Strasbourg University), and Oil Exploration and Exploitation (State Oil and Industry University and Rennes 1 University).

Lectures at UFAZ will be delivered in English by an international academic staff of highly qualified French and Azerbaijani professors.

Graduates will obtain a double degree.