

# Meruyert Bizhanova

Nazarbayev University, Astana, Kazakhstan

+77785601370 | [meruyert.bizhanova@nu.edu.kz](mailto:meruyert.bizhanova@nu.edu.kz)

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/meruyert-bizhanova](https://www.linkedin.com/in/meruyert-bizhanova)

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## EDUCATION

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<b>Nazarbayev University</b> <i>Bachelor of Science in Biological Science</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>GPA:</b> 3.88 / 4.0; Letter grading system</li><li>● <b>Honors:</b> Summa Cum Laude (expected)</li></ul>	<b>Astana, Kazakhstan</b> <i>Expected June 2023</i>
<b>Nazarbayev Intellectual School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● graduated with Honors</li></ul>	<b>Aktau, Kazakhstan</b> <i>May 2019</i>

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## AWARDS

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● Winner of "Student of the Year" nomination	2021-2022
● Head of the "Best Academic Club of the Year"	2021-2022
● Nominee for "Lady of the Year"	2021-2022
● "President Medal" award	Nov 2022
● "Dean's list" Academic award	2020-Present
● Gold Medal in the International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition	Jan 2021-Nov 2021
● "UG TOP-10 Finalist" (iGEM)	Jan 2021-Nov 2021
● Nominee for "Best Inclusivity" Award (iGEM)	Jan 2021-Nov 2021
● Nominee for "Best Sustainability" Award (iGEM)	Jan 2021-Nov 2021
● Nominee for "the Best Environmental Project" (iGEM)	Jan 2021-Nov 2021
● Nominee for "The Best Wiki" (iGEM)	Jan 2021-Nov 2021

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## WORK & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

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<b>Deputy in Capital Youth Maslihat</b> (“Science, IT and Innovation” Committee) <i>Deputy</i>	<b>Astana, Kazakhstan</b> <i>Dec 2021- Present</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Developed a project "Century Belongs to Educated" and provided suggestions for introducing the educational policies and adoption of the bills at the Council session</li><li>● Participated in the discussion process with the Heads and Ministers for the project implementation and in the meetings with voters of the constituency, with local governments and organizations;</li></ul>	
<b>Learning and Teaching Committee</b> <i>Student Representative of Biology major students</i>	<b>Astana, Kazakhstan</b> <i>Aug 2022 – Present</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Conducted research into students' interests and challenges in the major and collected diverse students' opinions on the Programme for future development (ex: reduction in n of non-major courses)</li><li>● Conveyed all Biology major students' perspectives to the Administration (ex: requirements for NUSOM Entrance) and provided guidance and advice to Biology students in a learning environment</li></ul>	

**Learning Management System Working Group***Member***Astana, Kazakhstan***July 2022- Present*

- Guided in exploring the LMS core functions that optimize the managing learning process and LMS operability in the collaboration/social learning
- Structured the report on a user-friendly interface and essential database features for learning analytics and course design that can meet teaching and learning needs

**"Elbasy Medali" Project - Foundation of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan***Participant**Aug 2020-Nov 2022*

- Received a golden medal for successfully competing in the "President Medal" project (the only national-level project implemented by the "Academy of Elbasy" under our President Foundation)
- Completed the program consists of 7 main areas: "Books", "National heritage", "Volunteering", "Work experience", "Expeditions", "Sports" and "Talents and skills".

**Academic Council, Nazarbayev University***Student Representative***Astana, Kazakhstan***June 2021 – June 2022*

- Assured student representation in University governance at all University level Committees
- Worked toward students' interests, presented proposals to the Administration for approval, advocating for students' rights at the University level (examples: "SD/UD Grading", "Withdrawal Deadline Extension", "Assessment Weight Policy", "Course Underload", "Syllabi Database in Public Course Catalog")

**Learning and Teaching Committee***Student Representative***Astana, Kazakhstan***Jan 2021 – June 2022*

- Reviewing and approving institutional policies and documents regulating the processes and procedures for the assurance and enhancement of academic quality (with the NU President, Provost, and other voting members)
- Overseeing the operations and approving the policies of the academic-related structural divisions
- Making recommendations regarding the establishment, disestablishment, or reorganization of schools, centers, institutes, laboratories, libraries

**Student Government Ministry of Education***Minister***Astana, Kazakhstan***June 2021 – June 2022**Vice-Minister**June 2020 – May 2021*

- Determined the trajectory of work of the Ministry of Education in Student Government and delegated teamwork to ensure day-to-day operations run
- Contributing to University policy-making and strategic planning and the improvement of educational programs: their quality, equity, and efficiency;
- Represented all students on academic and academic-related public and commercial organizations;
- organized Academic [Fairs, Exam Nights, and Educational Projects](#)

**International Higher Education Fair "Begin-Group"***Advisor-Translator***Astana, Kazakhstan***April 2019- April 2022*

- Assisted in individual promotional campaigns of High Education Institutions
- Advised students and parents on the study abroad options presented at the education fair

**Student Leadership Association***Member***Astana, Kazakhstan***Jan 2021-April 2022*

- Organized leadership projects in collaboration with students leaders of other Universities

- Offered programs and planning for positive change within their schools and communities in Kazakhstani Universities and shared the academic experience

### **Lifelong Learning Working Group**

**Astana, Kazakhstan**

*Member*

*Feb 2022- July 2022*

- Developed NU Lifelong Learning Strategy 2022-2027 and comprehensive LLL program
- Wrote the steps to create an effective organizational structure and delivery model for transformative knowledge and skills through the Modification of the Nazarbayev University Curricula

### **Future Learning Working Group**

**Astana, Kazakhstan**

*Member*

*March 2021-December 2021*

- Contributed to the development of the report of the Ideal Learning Environment appropriate for Nazarbayev University in 2026 and made recommendations for creating that learning environment

### **Curriculum and Student Learning Task Force**

**Astana, Kazakhstan**

*Member*

*Nov 2020- Jan 2021*

- Outlined the report including detailed sections on academic support for students, curriculum implications, and academic mobility programs
- Suggested ways to improve the assessment support and feedback to students and integration of advanced technological tools, software, and human resources

### **Nazarbayev University Headliners Roundtable**

**Astana, Kazakhstan**

*Member*

*Sept 2021- June 2022*

- Provided the reports on the behalf of the NU Student Government and brought students' perspectives
- Directly influenced the decision-making process through the recommendations and negotiated with NU stakeholders, community organizations, and professional associations on the optimal decision

### **Faculty Senate**

**Astana, Kazakhstan**

*Member*

*Sept 2021- May 2022*

- Contributed to the creation of learner-centered pedagogy and teaching and made recommendations on the policy in collaboration with Faculty members
- Maintained constructive engagement between Faculty and students toward the same academic goal

### **The Office of Student Liaison**

**Astana, Kazakhstan**

*Member*

*Jan 2021-April 2022*

- Examined pathways of the program, student support services, and the aspects of academic studies
- Developed the formulation of action plans based on Institutional Effectiveness survey results and students' preferences, and concerns

### **Elections for Presidency in Student Government**

**Astana, Kazakhstan**

*Candidate*

*April 2022*

- Drafted an action plan- the “servant leadership” model - by focusing on the resources the University needs to carry on and expand
- Participated in the presidential debate and was a presidential candidate who received 2nd majority of the electoral vote (only a 1% difference with the electoral vote for the elected president)

### **Internationally Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) Competition**

*Member of [iGEM\\_NU\\_Kazakhstan](#)*

*March 2021-Nov 2021*

- participated in a prestigious worldwide synthetic biology competition and won Gold Medal

## **iGEM “[Education](#)” and “[Science Communication](#)” Committees**

*Head*

*March 2021-Nov 2021*

- Organized a nationwide Summer Camp and the first International Student Biohackathon "Code-On" in Central Asia.
- Produced and distributed educational posters to 6 regions, 18 villages, and 20 schools in Kazakhstan
- Created Ed-resources Database on Stepik and YouTube and published our articles on biology in popular scientific magazines, journals, and scientific platforms

## **“Qazaq Khan Academy” educational organization**

*Co-founder, coordinator, and manager*

*Aug 2019-Sept 2020*

- Offered free online educational material and create an accessible education platform in the Qazaq language using Khan Academy sources.
- Created Qazaq Khan ACadmey Club, which later became a non-profit educational organization
- Managed a team of teachers and students on the translation of the Khan Academy educational material into the Kazakh language

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## **TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Nazarbayev Intellectual School**

**Aktau, Kazakhstan**

*Teacher-trainee [online]*

*October 2022- Present*

- Planned and prepared lessons based on NIS Program (through integrating formative and summative assessment)
- Explored innovative teaching methods and prepared new teaching materials

### **NU Academic Advising Office Student Support Fellowship**

**Astana, Kazakhstan**

*Fellow August*

*2022 – Present*

*Speaker*

*June 2020 – May 2021*

- Provided undergraduate students with the academic support they need in their studies (Major choice, Course selection, and policies and procedures at the University and Schools)

### **iGEM Summer Camp**

**Astana, Kazakhstan**

*Organizer and Mentor*

*Aug 2021*

- Generated Camp topics, ideas, and format of camp and negotiated with Camp speakers
- Planned and managed the budget, created a schedule of the camp and activity evaluation sheet
- Mentored all school children of the Camp and consistently supported them throughout the camp journey

### **Children's Development Foundation (non-profit organization)**

**Astana, Kazakhstan**

*Tutor*

*Aug 2019 - May 2020*

- Educated school children from a poor financial background
- Prepared children for the entrance exams for Nazarbayev Intellectual Schools, Daryn, and Bilim-Innovation Schools (on a voluntary basis)

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## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS)

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### The Mechanobiology lab

Research Assistant

Nov 2021- Present

- Project: “Effect of the carbon nanoparticles (10 ug/ml, 100 ug/ml concentrations) on the biophysical properties of bacterial strains *E.coli* DH5α and *E.coli* BL21”
- Measured the cell stiffness with AFM (Atomic Force Microscopy)
- Collected data and parameters of bacterial cell stiffness and adhesion at the cellular level

### International CoronaNet Research project: Tracking Government Responses to COVID-19

Intern

June 2022- Aug 2022

- Contributed to the database on government responses to COVID-19 within distinct policy domains: School Restrictions and Closure of Schools
- Collected about the various fine-grained actions to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic

### iGEM\_NU\_Kazakhstan\_2021

Research Assistant

March 2021-Nov 2021

- [Project](#): “Dual expression system for Nicotinamide Adenine Dinucleotide and Rhamnolipids Biosynthesis in *Pseudomonas putida* for electrofermentative remediation of crude oil”
- Performed research analysis and data management, and constructed research design

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## PUBLICATIONS / REPORTS

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- Bizhanova, M. (2019, March 16). *Want kids to learn well? Feed them correctly* | [Semantic Scholar](#).
- Future Learning Working Group [Final Report](#) "A Vision of the Ideal NU Learning Environment in 2026 and FLWG Recommendations"
- Nazarbayev University [Lifelong Learning Strategy](#) 2022-2027
- WG №4 - "Curriculum and Student Learning" [report](#)

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## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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### “Prevention of Discrimination in the Universities in Kazakhstan” Workshops Astana, Kazakhstan

Participant

November 2022

### National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) Annual Conference

Participant

November 2022

### Europe’s largest conference EdCrunch

Participant

[Online]

November 2022

### Participant of the International student week in Belgrade (iSWiB) 2022

Participant

Belgrade, Serbia

July 2022

### 2nd International Academic Integrity

Judge

March 2022 - June 2022

### “Ethics. Integrity. Communication” conference

Organizer

Astana, Kazakhstan

February 2022

<b>International Academic Integrity Conference</b> <i>Head-Organizer</i>	<b>Astana, Kazakhstan</b> <i>February 2022</i>
<b>The 5th International Youth Forum “Youth. Integration. Development”</b> <i>Speaker and Participant</i>	<b>Minsk, Belarus</b> <i>October 2021</i>
<b>First Institutional Research Forum: Using Data to Support Academic Quality, Planning, Decision Making</b> <i>Participant</i>	<b>Astana, Kazakhstan</b> <i>October 2019</i>
<b>11th Traditional Scientific and Practical Conference “Teachers who change the world of School”</b> <i>Speaker</i>	<b>Astana, Kazakhstan</b> <i>November 2019</i>

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## INVITED TALKS

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<b>Annual NU Student Awards “73 Questions with Winner”</b> <i>Interviewee</i>	<b>Astana, Kazakhstan</b> <i>November 2022</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Study Smart” and “How to be a straight-A student”</li> </ul>	
<b>“23 Questions with Research Assistant” rubrics</b> <i>Speaker</i>	<b>Astana, Kazakhstan</b> <i>November 2022</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Study Smart” and “How to be a straight-A student”</li> </ul>	
<b>Freshman Marathon Challenges organized by NU Academic Advising Office</b> <i>Speaker</i>	<b>Astana, Kazakhstan</b> <i>November 2022</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Study Smart” and “How to be a straight-A student”</li> </ul>	
<b>Podcast: Template of “Successful student”</b> <i>Speaker</i>	<b>Astana, Kazakhstan</b> <i>November 2022</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Study Smart” and “How to be a straight-A student”</li> </ul>	
<b>Tea with Peer Advisor by NU Academic Advising Office</b> <i>Speaker</i>	<b>Astana, Kazakhstan</b> <i>November 2022</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Offline and Online Learning: through the prism of experience” and “Study Tips” Workshop</li> </ul>	

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## VOLUNTARY WORK

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<b>Institute of Smart Systems and Artificial Intelligence (ISSAI)</b> <i>Participant</i>	<b>Astana, Kazakhstan</b> <i>November 2022</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contributed to the development of Artificial Intelligence-based speech technologies in Kazakhstan</li> </ul>	

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## SKILLS & INTERESTS

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**Languages:** Kazakh (native proficiency), English (professional proficiency), Russian (native proficiency)  
**Programming Skills:** Web Programming, Python, CSS, JavaScript, Excel, Data Encoding&Analysis  
**Certifications, Courses & Training:** UASR Virtual Summer Courses, “New Learning: Principles and Patterns of Pedagogy”, “Think Global: Teachers training course”, “Diversity and Inclusion in Education”

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