



NAZARBAYEV
UNIVERSITY

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To whom it may concern

Dear Madam/Sir,

With this letter I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your consideration of applications from Nazarbayev University (hereinafter - NU) graduate students and every time their successes make us extremely proud, especially acknowledging their admittance to highly regarded and internationally well-known establishments like yours.

The establishment of NU twelve years ago was envisioned by Nursultan Nazarbayev, the first President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, to create an international University with world-class research and programs taught exclusively in English, which would lead the educational reform in the country. To elevate its' status distinguishing from national education institutions and ease the processes welcoming internationalization NU has been established by and is governed under special Nazarbayev University Law, 2011 making it the first-ever state university in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) granted with full academic freedom and institutional autonomy. This Law ensures full recognition of degrees awarded by NU in Kazakhstan and this exception allows NU to adopt best practices from around the world and translate positives into Kazakhstan's context.

Currently, NU has seven academic Schools offering undergraduate and graduate programs: School of Engineering and Digital Sciences (SEDS), School of Mining & Geosciences (SMG), School of Sciences and Humanities (SSH), School of Medicine (NUSOM), Graduate School of Business (GSB), Graduate School of Public Policy (GSPP), Graduate School of Education (GSE), as well as Center for Preparatory Studies (CPS) offering Foundation Year Program. NU has 530 faculty and researchers representing 59 countries (USA, UK, Ireland, France, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Germany, Bulgaria, Australia, China, Finland, Bangladesh, Canada, Greece, Vietnam, Israel, India, Iran, Poland, Pakistan, South Korea, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Philippines, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Macedonia, the Netherlands, Rumania, Singapore, Syria, Serbia, South Africa, Switzerland, New Zealand, Czech Republic, Ecuador, etc.). Among them, 414 hold PhD degrees from foreign higher education institutions.

NU has strong strategic partnerships with Universities of the highest recognition, and most NU Schools are paired with a strategic partner to assist NU on its' challenging and ambitious journey toward exceptional levels of global standards in education and research while remaining uniquely Kazakhstani – the University of

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Cambridge (strategic partner to GSE and CPS), University of Pennsylvania (GSE), the University of Wisconsin-Madison (SSH), Duke University, Fuqua School of Business (GSB), the National University of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (GSPP), the University of Pittsburgh (NUSOM), and Colorado School of Mines (SMG). With assistance from strategic partners NU has developed graduate and undergraduate programs also received invaluable support and advice in faculty recruitment, curriculum design, development of policies, procedures and quality assurance systems, and many others. Supported by these strong partnerships, NU is firmly on a path to realizing its goals.

Recognizing the importance of regional links in 2017 NU has become a co-founding member of the Asian Universities Alliance (AUA) that aims at addressing regional and global challenges, specifically related to higher education and economic, scientific and technological development, by strengthening collaborations among member institutions.

As a young institution that is only twelve years old and had its eighth graduation ceremony in June 2022, NU has not applied for international institutional accreditation programs yet. There is an established process, requirements and procedures to get accredited institutionally, and for the University it will take another 5-7 years. However, as a preparatory step toward institutional accreditation, in 2017, NU invited the Institutional Evaluation Programme – under the auspices of the European University Association (EUA) – to conduct an independent assessment of the University:

https://www.iepqaa.org/downloads/publications/nu%20iep%20fu%20report_2018-2019_final.pdf.

The prestigious Center for World University Rankings (CWUR) rating included Nazarbayev University among all universities in Kazakhstan in May 2022. The CWUR creates the academic ranking of world universities, one of the most significant rankings of higher education institutions. Nazarbayev University ranked 1,765th out of 2,000 elite universities in the Global 2000 list compiled by the Center for World University Rankings (CWUR).

Apart from this Nazarbayev University is ranked #1344 in Best Global Universities and #402 in Best Global Universities in Asia (<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-global-universities/nazarbayev-university-529806#:~:text=Nazarbayev%20University%20Rankings,widely%20accepted%20indicators%20of%20excellence>). Schools are ranked based on 13 indicators that measure their academic research performance and their global and regional reputations.

The University underwent an external review of its academic quality, research and strategic management practices through an extensive process of collective self-reflection. Besides two programmatic accreditations were also obtained: in February 2020, the NUFYP EAP program was assessed by the British Association of Teachers of English for Academic Purposes (BALEAP); the Graduate School of Public Policy (GSPP) master's programs are accredited by the European Association for the Accreditation of Programs in Public and Municipal Administration (EAPAA).

Considering the importance of experiencing international education, Nazarbayev University creates various opportunities for students to participate in

different study abroad programs (including summer semesters, cultural programs, and modules at partner institutions). These programs aim at helping students get necessary exposure to different education systems, cultures, and languages and enhance students' cross-cultural competences to support their academic skills and knowledge.

I am proud to say that the first six graduation cohorts of Classes of 2015 - 2021 accounted for as many as 5895 students earning their Bachelor's and Master's degrees in engineering, sciences, technologies, and humanities. Among the graduates of Classes of 2015-2021, as of June 2022, 1315 have been admitted to postgraduate programs, including 446 accepted to PhD programs at leading universities worldwide. The University of Cambridge, University of Oxford, Stanford University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, University College London, Johns Hopkins University, ETH Zurich, Columbia University, National University of Singapore, New York University, London School of Economics and Political Science, LMU Munich, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Technical University of Munich are among a few universities where NU graduates pursue their postgraduate education. NU alumni find employment with relative ease – despite the economic recession, more than 67% of graduates are employed by public and private organizations either of Kazakhstani or international residence. These young people have proven their academic excellence and potential for continued success in their careers be it education, science, or business, and will be representing the cohorts of NU graduates in contributing to further economic and social prosperity of Kazakhstan.

I fully support our students and share the belief in their talents granted by their professors and hope that they will have the opportunity to experience student life at your University and learn from it, adding to the diversity and another bright fellow peer into the classroom.

Perhaps you may need more information about NU, so I enclosed the special legislation explaining the status of Nazarbayev University, and the University Charter to this letter.

Should you have further questions you wish to raise or need clarification, please contact Gaini Yessembekova, Director of the Career and Advising Center at gaini.yessembekova@nu.edu.kz.

Sincerely,

**Vice President for Student Affairs
and International Cooperation**



Kadisha Dairova