

PROVISIONS  
OF THE SHAKHMARDAN YESSENOV FOUNDATION PROGRAM  
“RESEARCH INTERNSHIPS IN WORLD LABORATORIES – 2026”

I. GENERAL TERMS

**1.1. The “Research Internships in World Laboratories -2026” Program** (hereinafter referred to as “the Program”) of the private foundation “The Shakhmardan Yessenov Science and Education Foundation” (hereinafter referred to as “the Foundation”) provides ten (10) grants to the winners of the Program for a research internship in the leading scientific and research laboratories in the world for a period of up to ninety (90) calendar days.

**1.2.** The Program is designed to support talented Kazakhstani students and current research scientists who are willing to pursue a PhD degree and engage in scientific researches in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

**1.3. The Program is aimed** to increase the competitiveness of Kazakhstani students and researchers when applying for master's and PhD programs by providing internship opportunities in the best scientific and research laboratories in the world.

**1.4. Only citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan studying at Kazakhstani universities at the following levels can participate in the Program:**

1.4.1. undergraduate students, except those in their first and final years of study;

1.4.2. master's students, except those in their final year of study;

1.4.3. bachelors at medical higher education institutions, except those in their first year of study, if internship is mandatory;

**1.4.4. interns, except those in their final year of study, according to the classifier of areas of training of personnel with higher and postgraduate education\* provided for by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in the following areas:**

1) natural sciences, mathematics and statistics;

2) information and communication technologies;

3) engineering, manufacturing and construction industries;

4) healthcare.

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*\*Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan as of October 13, 2018, No. 569 "On approval of the Classifier of areas of training of personnel with higher and postgraduate education" (registered in the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan on October 17, 2018, No. 17565)*

II. PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION STAGES

**2.1** The Program is a long-term project which is implemented in several stages:

**The first stage** is the competitive selection of the Program winners;

**The second stage** is preparation for the internship by the winners of the Program:

1) the winners of the Program independently search for research supervisors and laboratories around the world to complete their internship within the framework of the Program;

2) the winners of the Program prepare the corresponding package of documents, consisting of: essays, recommendations, translation of scientific papers, etc.;

3) the winners of the Program independently search for accommodation for the period of the internship in world laboratories and get a visa to the country of the internship (*if a visa is required*).

At this stage, the Foundation provides consulting support to the winners of the Program.

**The third stage** is doing an internship by the winners of the Program;

**The fourth stage** is the submission of a financial (*in the form according to Appendix No. 1 to these Provisions*) and performance report (*in the form according to Appendix No. 2 to these Provisions*) by the winners of the Program.

2.2. For the competitive selection of the Program participants, the Foundation establishes an Expert Council, which carries out the selection of the Program participants. The decision of the Expert Council is submitted to the Head of the Foundation for consideration.

2.3. The decision of the Head of the Foundation is approved by an order in the form of an officially certified list of the winners of the Program. The list of the Program winners is published on the Foundation's website: [yessenovfoundation.org](http://yessenovfoundation.org).

2.4. Applications for participation in the Program are accepted in the Kazakh, Russian and English languages. The working language of the Program is Russian.

2.5. The Foundation has the right to refuse to provide funding for the internship under the Program without citing reasons for the refusal.

2.6. The Foundation has the right to independently redistribute grants between undergraduate and graduate students, and research scientists depending on the number of applications received and the results of the competitive selection.

2.7. The Foundation reserves the right to provide fewer or more than the ten (10) announced grants, if the Foundation's Expert Council so decides.

### III. COMPETITIVE SELECTION OF THE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

#### 3.1. Requirements for the Program Participants:

3.1.1. The candidate must be a citizen of the Republic of Kazakhstan residing in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan;

3.1.2. **The candidate could be:**

1) a current research scientist (with a degree not higher than a master's degree), working at a Kazakhstani higher education institution, research institute, academy, laboratory, etc.;

2) a student in the 2-3 year of undergraduate degree;

3) a student in the 2-5 year of undergraduate degree at medical higher education institutions where internship is mandatory;

4) a 1-year master's student;

5) a non-final year internship student **studying exclusively at a Kazakhstani higher education institution or a specialist working at a Kazakhstani institution in the following areas:**

- natural sciences, mathematics and statistics;
- information and communication technologies;
- engineering, manufacturing and construction industries;
- healthcare.

3.1.3. The candidate's GPA should be 3.3 or higher.

3.1.4. The candidate must have achievements in various scientific olympiads and competitions;

3.1.5. **The candidate must have an English proficiency level of at least B1 level and prove language proficiency by:**

- 1) providing IELTS certificate– a minimum score of 6.0;
- 2) providing TOEFL iBT certificate– a minimum score of 80;
- 3) education in the English language.

3.1.6. The candidate must have a strong interest in a specific scientific area and provide the following relevant evidence:

- 1) personal scientific publications,
- 2) results of any research activities,
- 3) other.

3.1.7 The candidate must demonstrate an interest to pursue a PhD degree and a wish to be engaged in scientific researches in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

#### 3.2. To participate in the Program selection process, the candidate has to:

3.2.1. complete the online application form on the Foundation's website: [yessenovfoundation.org](http://yessenovfoundation.org).

3.2.2. attach to the application the following

#### Required documents:

- 1) scan of the identity card;

2) essay on the topic “Research I would like to conduct”. The essay should contain answers to the following questions:

- a. What research experience have you got so far?
  - b. What kind of a research are you looking forward to conduct, and what could be done to make it happen? *(send an essay only in an editable Microsoft Word document)*;
- 3) transcripts (all semesters of study) or a bachelor’s degree diploma with grades (for master’s students and research scientists), or a diploma from the last place of study - no more than one (1) document;
- 4) curriculum vitae.

**Additional documents:**

- 1) certificates in science – no more than three (3) certificates\*;
- 2) social activities and volunteering certificates – no more than two (2) certificates\*;
- 3) publications – no more than two (2) publications\*;
- 4) recommendation letter from the scientific supervisor/dean of the faculty/vice-rector/rector of the university – no more than one (1) document.

*\*When reviewing additional documents, the Foundation considers a limited number of certificates/publications provided by the candidate. The candidate must independently choose the certificates/publications that best showcase his/her achievements.*

**3.3. Applications are accepted on the Foundation’s website: [yessenovfoundation.org](http://yessenovfoundation.org) from October 6 through November 6, 2025. The deadline for acceptance of applications is November 6, 2025, 3:00 P.M. Astana time (GMT+5).**

**Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.**

**3.4.** An application and essay can be submitted in the Kazakh, Russian or English languages. Documents (certificates, diplomas, recommendations, etc.) are accepted in their original language.

**3.5.** Submission of documents to participate in the Competition implies that the applicant shares the goals of the Program, confirms his/her agreement with all the terms and conditions of the Program as set forth in these Provisions, and is prepared to fully comply with them without any exceptions.

**3.6.** Grant holders of the Foundation’s Research Internships in World Laboratories Program are not eligible for the 2026 grant.

#### **IV. STAGES OF THE PROGRAM SELECTION PROCESS**

**4.1.** The Program selection process consists of two (2) rounds. The best candidates are selected after each round.

**4.2. The First round of the Program selection process** is an application assessment:

All the applications received on time are assessed by the Foundation employees and independent experts engaged by the Foundation during the period from November 7 through November 24, 2025.

**4.2.1. The candidates’ applications are assessed in accordance with the following criteria:**

- 1) the candidate’s academic performance;
- 2) the quality of the application;
- 3) the candidate’s scientific and social achievements;
- 4) the level of interest in the Program; the level of interest in further scientific activity.

**4.2.2.** The list of the participants selected for the second round will be published no later than November 25, 2025, on the Foundation’s official website: [yessenovfoundation.org](http://yessenovfoundation.org).

**4.3.** Upon completion of the first round of the Competition, no more than forty (40) participants are selected.

**4.4. The second round of the Program selection process** consists of an individual interview with the candidate and a group interview, conducted online by a trainer-psychologist and the Foundation’s employees.

Candidates who have passed the first (1st) stage of the Program selection process are eligible for the interview.

**During the interview, the following qualities of the candidates are assessed:**

- 1) leadership skills;

- 2) clarity and reasonableness of goal setting;
- 3) learning ability and ability to quickly perceive and analyze new information;
- 4) communication skills;
- 5) ability to adapt to a new situation and find non-standard solutions;
- 6) business qualities;
- 7) politeness and tact;
- 8) determination;
- 9) flexibility and ability to accept other people's points of view;
- 10) self-criticism, ability to acknowledge his/her mistakes and admit them;
- 11) emotional intelligence level;
- 12) level of empathy;
- 13) and others.

The interview, designed to assess the personal qualities of the candidates, will be conducted **from November 26 through December 12, 2025**. The Foundation reserves the right to send test assignments to the Program participant after the interview assessment.

**4.5.** Candidates who have successfully passed the competitive selection process become winners of the Program.

**4.6.** The Foundation reserves the right not to provide explanations for the motives and reasons behind its decisions regarding the allocation of the Program's grants.

**4.7.** The list of the Program winners will be published on the Foundation's website [yessenovfoundation.org](http://yessenovfoundation.org) no later than **December, 15, 2025**.

## V. SPONSORSHIP PROCEDURE

**5.1.** Grants to the winners of the Program are awarded based on a sponsorship agreement concluded between the Foundation and the Program winner.

**5.2. The grant covers the following expenses:**

- 1) round-trip airfare;
- 2) visa and health insurance costs;
- 3) hotel quarantine (up to two (2) weeks) if required in the destination country;
- 4) accommodation and utility costs;
- 5) food and other expenses (approved rate: forty (40) US dollars per one (1) day, from the date of actual arrival at the internship location, for a total period of no more than ninety (90) calendar days;
- 6) transfer along the route: airport (host country) - accommodation - airport (host country).

The total amount of the grant should not exceed **four million seven hundred (4,700,000) tenge**.

**5.3** The grant recipient who has concluded the sponsorship agreement with the Foundation is obliged to comply with the following terms of the agreement:

- 1) to complete the internship within the established timeframe and in accordance with the host laboratory's rules;
- 2) to responsibly fulfill all professional requirements of the internship;
- 3) to promptly report any major issues encountered during the internship (financial, organizational, logistical, pandemic-related, etc.);
- 4) during the internship period, publish at least **two (2)** posts related to the internship on his/her personal social media accounts, using the Foundation's designated hashtag (#) **and** tag (@);
- 5) to keep in touch with the Foundation's representatives during and after the internship;
- 6) to contribute to the writing of his/her success story by providing photographs that illustrate the internship process and his/her experience in the laboratory;
- 7) to inform the Foundation about the results of the internship by submitting the relevant reports (performance and financial).
- 8) to submit the relevant financial and performance reports in accordance with the deadlines specified in the agreement. *The forms of financial and performance reports are specified in Appendix No. 1 and Appendix No. 2 to these Provisions;*
- 9) to disseminate information about the Foundation in any appropriate form, including posts on his/her social media accounts, while maintaining and promoting a positive image of the Foundation, and to distribute informational and promotional materials provided by the Foundation;

- 10) to inform the Foundation of his/her achievements in professional activities and soft skills development;
- 11) to provide **any** information, including that related to participation in the competition and the implementation of the awarded grant (internship, scholarship, training, etc.), upon the Foundation's request, no later than three (3) business days from the moment the request is received at the email address specified in the application;
- 12) to participate in blogs and other proposed activities upon the request of the Foundation;
- 13) to provide personal photos, text, and video materials (from places of study, work, internships, social events, etc.) upon request of the Foundation (ensuring that individuals in the photos and videos appear neat and appropriately dressed for a secular environment), and to participate in photo and video sessions during the Foundation's events for the purpose of creating success stories for the Foundation's platforms and other publications aimed at inspiring the youth of Kazakhstan;
- 14) in performing their obligations under the Agreement, the Program winner and the Foundation's employees shall refrain from committing, and encouraging any actions that violate or contribute to the violation of the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, including in the field of combating corruption. They shall not pay, offer to pay or authorize the payment of any money or valuables, directly or indirectly, to any persons to influence their actions or decisions in order to obtain any unlawful advantage or achieve other improper objectives.

5.4. The Program winner is solely responsible for obtaining any required vaccinations, as mandated by the conditions of the country where the internship takes place.

5.5. For all questions regarding the Program and/or the Provisions, please contact the authorized representatives of the Foundation:

- Irina Grishchenko: email: [irina.g@yessenovfoundation.org](mailto:irina.g@yessenovfoundation.org),  
phone number: +7 771 775 18 15;
- Aigerym Sultan: email: [aigerim.s@yessenovfoundation.org](mailto:aigerim.s@yessenovfoundation.org),  
phone number: +7 701 627 96 07.

5.6. The Foundation may request from the higher education institution where the winner of the Program is studying any additional information and/or documents concerning the winner of the Program (grant recipient).

5.7. The Foundation reserves the right to verify the information provided, by all legal means, and to exclude any grant applicant from participation in the Program if the information and/or documents provided do not correspond to reality.

## FINANCIAL REPORT (form)

1. FULL NAME\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 2026

\_\_\_\_\_ signature

2. Agreement number and date

3. The “Research Internships in World Laboratories – 2026” Program

4. Internship duration (from YYYY-MM-DD to YYYY-MM-DD)

5. Place of internship (Laboratory/University, city, country)

6. Professor’s name:

7. Research topic:

Expense items	Amount, in KZT	Amount, in USD	The National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan exchange rate for one (1) US dollar	Documents (indicating date and amount)	Comments
TOTAL					

Paid out	
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Refund	
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### Appendix No. 2

#### to the Provisions of the “Research Internships in World Laboratories – 2026” Program PERFORMANCE REPORT (form)

1. The performance report is to be sent to the official email address of the Foundation: [info@yessenovfoundation.org](mailto:info@yessenovfoundation.org). It is mandatory to copy the following persons:

- Irina Fyodorovna Grishchenko, email: [irina.g@yessenovfoundation.org](mailto:irina.g@yessenovfoundation.org), contact number: +7 771 775 18 15;

- Aigerym Aidarqyzy Sultan, email: [aigerim.s@yessenovfoundation.org](mailto:aigerim.s@yessenovfoundation.org), contact number: +7 701 627 96 07.

2. The performance report is a free-form text which must include the following:

2.1. up to four (4) high quality photographs, both individual and group, for example, with a professor or internship supervisor, while the number of people in the photograph should not be more than 3, and should demonstrate the internship process and possible non-work activities (for example, travel);

2.2. description of the work process, including intermediate and final outcomes;

2.3. reflections on the relevance of the work/research in today’s world - what problems it could potentially solve;

2.4. if an article has been written based on the outcomes of the work, indicate where it was published, what it is about, and who the author is;

2.5. share what was useful/surprising/new for you, etc.;

- 2.6. if you participated in conferences or other activities - what was interesting, what were the outcomes, etc.;
- 2.7. what did you discover about the new culture, and what will you take with you into your life;
- 2.8. your tips and life hacks for future winners;
- 2.9. how you can contribute to the Foundation;
- 2.10. would you be willing to serve as an expert or participate in the selection of candidates for competitive programs, and in which areas;
- 2.11. any other suggestions you believe could be useful for the Foundation's work or for improving its programs.