Student Mobility Facts and Figures

Kazakhstan

Students Studying in U.S.
2016/2017
1,792
Percentage Change from
2015/2016
-7.4%
Source: 2017 Open Doors

Student Visas
Issued in 2016/17
F 1,428
J 2,782
M 27
Source: travel.state.gov

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Undergraduate students interested in education in English are attracted to the new flagship university in Kazakhstan, Nazarbayev University. The university is supported by many international universities, including University of Wisconsin-Madison, Duke University, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and University of Pennsylvania.

- In 2014, the government announced plans to reduce the number of Kazakh universities over the next five years from 139 to 100. This will be in addition to the nearly 300 institutions closed in 2012.

- Kazakhstan is experiencing an economic downturn that may impact students’ ability to fund their education. Despite this, education is highly valued, and students and families are actively seeking quality education options, including study abroad.
Kazakhstan

Education System Overview

- **Pre-high school (# of years):** 8 years
- **High school (# of years):** 3 years
- **Academic year calendar:** 11 months
- **Recommended times for U.S. institution visits:** October – April
- **Major holidays/breaks:**
  - Orthodox Christmas (January 7)
  - Nauryz Holiday (March 21-23)
  - Kazakhstan People Solidarity Day (May 1)
  - Kuban Alt (August 21)
  - First Presidents Day (December 1)
  - Independence Day (December 17)
  - Major exam period (January – February; May – June)

Secondary Education (high school)

- **Language of instruction:** Most public schools offer courses in Russian or Kazakh. Parents can choose the language of instruction. Certain public and private schools offer English curriculum.
- **Years of mandatory English courses:** 11 years
- **Grading system and interpretation:**
  - Excellent (5 - otlichno/отлично) – A
  - Good (4- хорошо/хорошо) – B
  - Satisfactory (3 - udovlitvoritelno/удовлетворительно) – C and D
  - Unsatisfactory (2 - neudovlitvoritelno/неудовлетворительно) - F
- **Subjects required:** Math (7), Physics (4), Chemistry (3), Biology (5), Russian (7), English (7), Kazakh (7), History (5), Geography (5), Literature (6), Physical Education (7), Political Science (2), Informatics (6), Economics (2), Drawing (2), Astronomy (1). There are no elective courses.
- **Graduation requirements:** Graduates must pass all courses with a grade of “Satisfactory – (3)” or higher and pass the Unified National Exam (UNT).
- **Name of school leaving exams:** UNT - Unified National Exam
- **How to verify school leaving exams:** Through the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- **Other credentials:** Students have the option to attend 3-year colleges following the 9th grade. These colleges confer a diploma that is equivalent to a high school diploma. After completing college, students can apply to a 4-year university to continue their education.
- **Standardized testing availability in Kazakhstan and adviser recommendations:** TOEFL iBT, IELTS, SAT, ACT. Some private schools and some of Nazarbayev Intellectual Schools offer IELTS, TOEFL or/and SAT preparation courses.

Structure of University System

- **Years of study required to earn a bachelor’s degree:** 4 years (5 years for Art & Design programs)
- **Language of instruction in universities:** Kazakh, Russian, English
- **Years of required English instruction in universities:** 1-2 years
Grading system and interpretation: In the past five years, many universities have adopted the credit-based system. The institutes use a letter grading system A, B, C, D, and F. Letter grades are further differentiated with “+” for the top of the grade range or “-” for the bottom of the grade range as below. There are such grades as “pass - зачтено” and “fail - не зачтено”. Based on the grades assigned, a grade point average is calculated and recorded on the student’s transcript.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Traditional grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>95-100</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>90-94</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>75-79</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>70-74</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>60-64</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td>55-59</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>50-54</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0-49</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Degrees offered: Bachelors, Masters, Doctorate
Top fields of study/majors: engineering, business, medicine, international relations
Standardized test availability / frequency offered in-country: TOEFL, IELTS, GRE, GMAT, LSAT and MCAT. Many universities have started offering courses taught in English. Other institutions offer full degree opportunities taught in English, such as Nazarbayev University, KIMEP University, Kazakh British Technical University.

Standardized test mean scores: TOEFL iBT (Reading: 19 Listening: 21 Speaking: 22 Writing:21 Total:82)

Study Abroad: When students leave Kazakhstan to study abroad, the United States ranks 3rd for study abroad according to UNESCO, data http://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-student-flow

Educational Authorities and International Education Resources

   Telephone: +7 -7172 -74-24-28
   Email: pressa@edu.gov.kz
   Website: www.edu.gov.kz/en

2. Organization: Bolashak Program - JSC Center for International Programs
   Telephone: +7 -7172 -69-51-36
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   Email for Bolashak Office in Washington, DC: bolashakusa@gmail.com
   Website: http://www.bolashak.gov.kz

EducationUSA advising centers in Kazakhstan are located in across Kazakhstan in Astana, Almaty, Aqtobe, Karaganda, and Shymkent.

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Country Overview
Kazakhstan

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