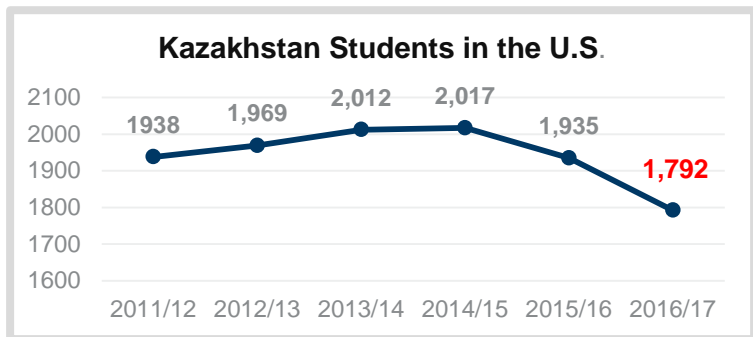
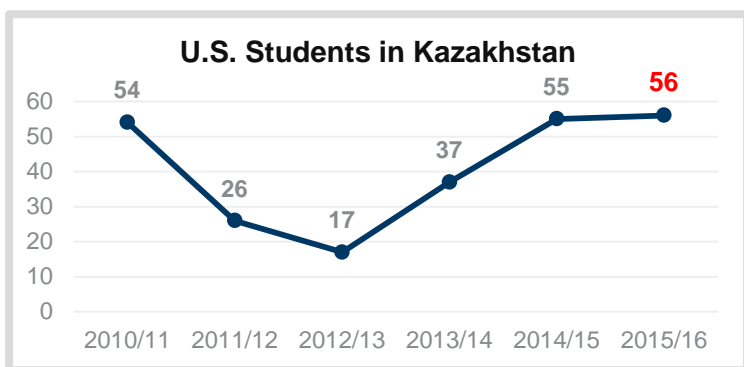


# Kazakhstan



Source: 2017 Open Doors Report (published by IIE, funded by the U.S. Department of State)



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

Students in U.S. by Academic Level	Number	%	% Change (1 year)
Undergraduate	926	51.7%	-17.7%
Graduate	486	27.1%	4.7%
Non-Degree	179	10%	-20.4%
OPT	201	11.2%	66.1%

Source: 2017 Open Doors Report

Students in U.S. by U.S. Institution Type	%
Undergraduates in 4-year Institutions	68%
Undergraduates in 2-year Institutions	32%
All Students in Public Institutions	59%
All Students in Private Institutions	41%

Source: 2017 Open Doors Report

## 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.





## 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- horosho/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 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

Letter grade	Points	Percentage	Traditional grade
A	4,0	95-100	Excellent
A-	3,67	90-94	Excellent
B+	3,33	85-89	Good
B	3,0	80-84	Good
B-	2,67	75-79	Good
C+	2,33	70-74	Satisfactory
C	2,0	65-69	Satisfactory
C-	1,67	60-64	Satisfactory
D+	1,33	55-59	Satisfactory
D-	1,0	50-54	Satisfactory
F	0	0-49	Unsatisfactory

- **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

1. Organization: Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan  
Telephone: +7 -7172 -74-24-28  
Email: [pressa@edu.gov.kz](mailto:pressa@edu.gov.kz)  
Website: [www.edu.gov.kz/en](http://www.edu.gov.kz/en)
2. Organization: Bolashak Program - JSC Center for International Programs  
Telephone: +7 -7172 -69-51-36  
Email: [info@bolashak.gov.kz](mailto:info@bolashak.gov.kz)  
Email for Bokashak Office in Washington, DC: [bolashakusa@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### EducationUSA Almaty

American Councils

20A Kazibek Bi Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

Almaty, Kazakhstan 050010

Telephone: +77132

Website: <https://educationusa.state.gov/centers/educationusa-almaty-american-councils>



## EducationUSA Astana

American Councils

11 Pushkin Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor #305

Astana, Kazakhstan

Telephone: +77132

Website: <https://www.educationusa.state.gov/centers/educationusa-astana-american-councils>

## EducationUSA Aktobe

AKEAC

6-A, 101-oi Strelkovoï Brigady Street

Aktobe, Kazakhstan 030000

Telephone: +77132-514331

Website: <https://educationusa.state.gov/centers/educationusa-aktobe-akeac>

## EducationUSA Karaganda

BILIM Educational Advising Center

Bukhar Zhyrau Avenue, Rooms 228-230

Karaganda, Kazakhstan 10000

Telephone: +77212-42085

Website: <https://educationusa.state.gov/centers/educationusa-karaganda-bilim-eac>

## EducationUSA Shymkent

13 Kazybek Bi Street

Shymkent, Kazakhstan

Telephone: +77207481652

Website: <https://educationusa.state.gov/centers/educationusa-shymkent>

