

**PROVISIONS
OF THE SHAKHMARDAN YESSENOV FOUNDATION PROGRAM
“RESEARCH INTERNSHIPS IN WORLD LABORATORIES – 2027”**

I. GENERAL TERMS

1.1. The Research Internships in World Laboratories -2027 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 duration of up to ninety (90) calendar days.

1.2. The Program is aimed at supporting talented Kazakhstani students and active researchers who intend to pursue a PhD degree in the future and engage in scientific research in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

1.3. The objective of the Program is to enhance the competitiveness of Kazakhstani students and researchers applying for master’s and PhD programs by providing internship opportunities in the world’s leading scientific and research laboratories.

1.4. Only citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan studying at Kazakhstani HEIs at the following levels may participate in the Program:

1.4.1. undergraduate students, excluding first and final-year students;

1.4.2. master’s students, excluding final-year students;

1.4.3. bachelors at medical higher education institutions, excluding first-year students, where an internship is mandatory;

1.4.4. interns, excluding final-year students, **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.

**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 the 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: an essay, letters of recommendation, 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 the completion of the internship by the Program winners;

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

2.2. For the competitive selection of the Program participants, the Foundation shall establish 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 shall be approved by an order in the form of an officially certified list of the winners of the Program. The list of the Program winners shall be published on the Foundation's website: **yessenovfoundation.org**.

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

2.5. The Foundation reserves the right to refuse funding for the internship under the Program without providing any reasons for such refusal.

2.6. The Foundation reserves the right to independently redistribute grants among undergraduate students, master's students, and researchers, 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) declared grants, subject to the decision of the Foundation's Expert Council.

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 within the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan;

3.1.2. **The candidate may be:**

1) an active researcher (holding a degree no higher than a master's degree) employed at a Kazakhstani higher education institution, research institute, academy, laboratory, etc.;

2) a second or third-year undergraduate student;

3) a second to fifth-year undergraduate student at a medical higher education institution where an internship is mandatory;

4) a master's student not in their final year of study;

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

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

3.1.3. The candidate must have a GPA of 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 English language proficiency of at least B2 level and provide official confirmation of their proficiency by submitting:**

- 1) an IELTS certificate with a minimum score of 6.0;

- 2) a TOEFL iBT certificate with a minimum score of 80;
 - 3) proof of completion of studies conducted in English.
- 3.1.6. The candidate must have a demonstrated interest in a specific scientific field and provide the following relevant evidence:

- 1) own scientific publications,
- 2) results of any research activities,
- 3) other relevant materials.

3.1.7 The candidate must demonstrate an interest in pursuing a PhD degree and a commitment to engaging in scientific research in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

3.2. To participate in the Program selection process, the candidate shall:

3.2.1. complete the online application form on the Foundation's website: 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 researchers), or a diploma from the last place of study - no more than one (1) document;
- 4) curriculum vitae.

Additional documents:

- 1) research certificates – 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) letter of recommendation from the academic supervisor/dean of the faculty/vice-rector/rector of the HEI – 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 select the certificates/publications that best showcase their achievements.*

3.3. Applications shall be accepted on the Foundation's website: yessenovfoundation.org from October 5 through November 4, 2026. The deadline for acceptance of applications is November 4, 2026, 3:00 P.M. Astana time (GMT+5).

Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

3.4. An application and essay may be submitted in the Kazakh, Russian or English languages. Documents (certificates, diplomas, recommendations, etc.) may be provided 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 their 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. Individuals who have previously been awarded a grant under this Program are not eligible to reapply for the grant.

IV. STAGES OF THE PROGRAM'S SELECTION PROCESS

4.1. The Program's selection process consists of two (2) rounds. The top-ranked candidates shall be selected after each round.

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

All the applications received on time shall be assessed by the Foundation employees and independent experts engaged by the Foundation during the period **from November 4 through November 23, 2026.**

4.2.1. The applications shall be assessed in accordance with the following criteria:

- 1) academic performance of the applicant;
- 2) quality of the application;
- 3) academic and social achievements of the applicant;
- 4) level of interest in the Program; level of interest in pursuing an academic career.

4.2.2. The list of the participants who have advanced to the second round shall be published on the Foundation's website - **yessenovfoundation.org** - no later than **November 24, 2026.**

4.3. Based on the results of the first round of the Competition, no more than forty (40) participants shall be selected.

4.4. The results of the first round shall be communicated to the applicants via the email address specified in their applications. The list of applicants who have advanced to the second round shall also be published on the official website of the Foundation.

4.5. The second round of the Program's 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's selection process are eligible for the interview.

During the interview, the following qualities of the candidates shall be 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 their 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 shall be conducted **from November 25 through December 11, 2026.** The Foundation reserves the right to send test assignments to a Program participant based on the interview results.

4.6. Candidates who have successfully passed the competitive selection process shall become the winners of the Program.

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

4.8. The list of the Program winners shall be published on the Foundation's website **yessenovfoundation.org** no later than **December, 15, 2026.**

V. SPONSORSHIP PROCEDURE

5.1. Grants shall be provided to the Program winners on the basis of a sponsorship agreement concluded between the Foundation and the Program winner.

5.2. The grant shall cover 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 shall not exceed **four million seven hundred thousand (4,700,000) tenge**.

5.3. The grant recipient who has concluded the sponsorship agreement with the Foundation shall 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) to publish at least **two (2)** posts related to the internship on their personal social media accounts, using the hashtags of the Foundation and its founder - #yessenovfoundation and #galimzhanyessenov - during the internship period;
- 5) to actively cooperate with the Foundation's representatives during the preparation, implementation, and completion stages of the internship, provide requested information in a timely manner, and keep the Foundation informed about the progress and outcomes of the internship;
- 6) to contribute to the writing of their success story by providing photographs that illustrate the internship process and their experience in the laboratory;
- 7) to inform the Foundation about the outcomes 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 shall be specified in Appendix No. 1 and Appendix No. 2 to these Provisions;*
- 9) to disseminate information about the Foundation in any appropriate form, that ensures the positive reputation of the Foundation, including through their own social media accounts, and to distribute informational and promotional materials provided by the Foundation;
- 10) to report to the Foundation on their achievements in professional and supra-professional activities;
- 11) to provide **any** information, including that related to participation in the competition and implementation of the awarded grant (internship, scholarship, training, etc.) no later than three (3) business days from the date of receipt of a request sent to the email address specified in the application, upon the Foundation's request;
- 12) to participate in blogs and other proposed activities upon the Foundation's request;
- 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. In the event that the grant recipient is **unable to commence the internship within the agreed timeframe, is forced to reschedule its dates, or is unable to complete the internship** at the time established by this Agreement due to health conditions or other circumstances that arose after the conclusion of the Agreement and prevent the implementation of the internship, this Agreement shall be subject to termination, and the total amount of the allocated grant shall be subject to a full refund to the Foundation, unless otherwise agreed by the parties in writing.

5.5. The Program winner shall be solely responsible for obtaining any required vaccinations, as mandated by the regulations of the host country where the internship takes place.

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

- **Irina Grishchenko:** email: irina.g@yessenovfoundation.org.

phone number: +7 771 775 18 15;

- **Aigerim Sultan:** email: aigerim.s@yessenovfoundation.org.

phone number: +7 701 627 96 07.

5.7. The Foundation may request additional information and/or documents regarding the Program winner (grant recipient) from the higher education institution where the Program winner is enrolled.

5.8. The Foundation reserves the right to verify the provided information by any lawful means and to exclude any grant applicant from participating in the Program in the event that the provided information and/or documents are found to be inaccurate.

5.9. The Foundation reserves the right not to provide explanations regarding the motives or reasons for decisions made concerning grant applicants under the Program.

Appendix No. 1

to the Provisions of the “Research Internships in World Laboratories - 2027” Program

FINANCIAL REPORT TEMPLATE

1. Full Name _____

Date “___” _____ 2027

Signature: _____

2. Agreement number and date _____

3. The “Research Internships in World Laboratories – 2027” Program

4. Internship period (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 – 2027" Program

PERFORMANCE REPORT FORM

1. The performance report shall be sent to the official email address of the Foundation info@yessenovfoundation.org, with the following parties mandatory placed in copy (CC):
- **Irina Fyodorovna Grishchenko**, [email: irina.g@yessenovfoundation.org](mailto:irina.g@yessenovfoundation.org), [contact number: +7 771 775 18 15](tel:+77717751815);
- **Aigerim Aidarqyzy Sultan**, [email: aigerim.s@yessenovfoundation.org](mailto:aigerim.s@yessenovfoundation.org), [contact number: +7 701 627 96 07](tel:+77016279607).
2. The text of the performance report shall be written in a free-form format and 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 three (3), and should demonstrate the internship process and possible non-work activities (for example, travel);
- 2.2. description of the work process, as well as 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. information regarding any upcoming publication based on the outcomes of the work, including the venue, topic, and authors;
- 2.5. insights into what was beneficial, unexpected, or new, as well as any other personal reflections;
- 2.6. information on any participation in conferences or other activities, including key highlights, outcomes, etc.;
- 2.7. your discoveries regarding the new culture and the experiences you will carry forward into your life;

2.8. recommendations and practical tips for future winners;

2.9. how you can contribute to or assist the Foundation;

2.10. your willingness to serve as an expert and participate in the selection of candidates for competitive programs, specifying the relevant fields;

2.11. any other suggestions you believe could be useful for the Foundation's operations or to improve its programs.