



**Title:** Welcome Letter from the Editorial Board

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**Page number:** 21

**Citation:** Kozhabayeva, K. & Sanat, A. (2016). Welcome letter from the editorial board. *NUGSE Research in Education*, 1(1), 21. Retrieved from [nugserie.nu.edu.kz](http://nugserie.nu.edu.kz)

# Welcome Letter from the Editorial Board

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As American writer, political activist, and the first special needs woman in history to get a bachelor's degree, Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Truly, each member of the NUGSERIE editorial board contributed a brick to establish a solid base for this journal. Below, we would like to share our voices, so that you have an idea what we have gained from this extraordinary experience. The following paragraphs are collated and edited responses from our Editorial Board: two MSc students, two MA students, two PhD students, two alumni, and two faculty members.

## **It is all about a common vision.**

NUGSERIE started its "life" with the first editorial board meeting. When we gathered and talked through plans and tasks to accomplish, the road ahead seemed as exciting as it was challenging. "Can we do this? Can we do that?" The questions were innumerable. No wonder. Not all of us had experience of establishing a scientific journal. We wanted NUGSERIE to be a student journal made by and for NUGSE students and alumni. Because NUGSE students' everyday life has a lot to do with reading scholarly journals, we wanted them to experience being author and peer-reviewer apart from reader. The Editorial Board agreed on establishing efficient submission and peer-reviewing processes comparable to those of international journals. NUGSERIE was destined to become a platform to share the work. We wanted to provide our authors and reviewers with a pure scholarly journal publication experience. We wanted our authors and peer-reviewers to learn from practice. We had and continue to have a common goal.

## **It is all about teamwork.**

Another lesson we learned was working as a team and reaching consensus. As the Editorial Board comprises a student and alumni representative of every program, it allowed us to take into account as many opinions as possible. At every meeting we had a list of tasks to do and shared them. Despite the fact that some of us worked and lived off-campus, others had "burning" deadlines and thesis writing, and some combined studies and family, we still felt responsible for the journal-to-be and did our best to develop the journal further. One of the best parts of being a part of the NUGSERIE team was a feeling of collaboration. We helped each other, shared our thoughts and doubts freely and assisted each other if needed. We believe that it is this NUGSERIE team spirit that helped us attract faculty and students to participate in the project.

## **It is all about hard work.**

Our experience of working on the journal has shown us that sometimes, quite often, things don't turn out the way you expect. So we kept working trying to adjust to every situation. Complications helped us grow more creative and open-minded as we kept on developing the journal. Working schedule and publication date, additional workshops and deadline extensions were some of the problem-solving measures we took. This would have never worked out if we did not listen to each other. This would have never worked out if we did not work hard, fully committed to the development of our journal.

Now we are proudly presenting the result of our work, the first issue of *Nazarbayev University Graduate School of Education's Research in Education* - NUGSERIE.