

STATE SUPPORT OF STUDENT MOBILITY IN KAZAKHSTAN

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In establishing the direction of *"Higher and postgraduate education"* of the State Program of Education Development in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2011- 2020, the following objectives are noted:

1. Providing staff with higher and postgraduate education, relevant to the needs of industrial and innovative development of the country.
2. Ensuring the integration in the European Higher Education Area.
3. Ensuring the integration of education, science and production and creating conditions for commercialization of intellectual property and technology. Preparation of highly skilled scientific and pedagogical staff.

For the realization of these tasks, in particular the second task, two target indicators are accepted, related directly to the Bolashak Program and academic mobility:

- On Bolashak Program 100% of scholars will study at postgraduate level (Masters, Doctoral programs and research internships), at undergraduate level from one semester to one academic year.
- Mandatory, recommendation parameters will be executed within the framework of the Bologna Process:

For development of academic mobility, as one of the principles of Bologna declaration, students will study abroad for at least one academic term for the entire period of study, including the international scholarship of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan *"Bolashak"*.

In 2011, the concept of academic mobility of students of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Kazakhstani model of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) were developed and approved. For realization of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan *"On Amendments and Additions to the Law "On Education" a joint order "On approval of destinations for studying abroad including the framework of academic mobility"* of the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan was developed.

The relevant authorities co-coordinating academic mobility were created. In the Fall of 2012, the Center of the Bologna Process and Academic Mobility was launched (former National Accreditation Center of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan). At universities, structural subdivisions were created and coordinators of academic mobility programs were identified.

Every year, opportunities are provided for students and teachers to participate in internal and external academic mobility programs. For the first time since 2011, 200 million tenge was allocated from the Republican budget to train students in a foreign university for one academic semester. In 2012, at the state level, this amount was increased up to 500 million tenge. In 2011, 50 students of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University named ,Gumilyov Eurasian National University , Kazakh National Agrarian University, Amanzholov East-Kazakhstan State University , Buketov Karaganda State University and Innovative University of Eurasia

were trained in foreign universities under the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship Program, Lane Kirkland Scholarship Program, DAAD and other educational programs.

Within the framework of the Bologna process, four working groups were created, in the ambit of which the following national experts are involved:

1. Working Group for report and implementation of the Bologna Process;
2. Working Group on Qualifications Frameworks, Recognition, Quality Assurance and Transparency;
3. Working group on the Social Dimension and Lifelong Learning; and
4. Working Group on mobility and internationalization.

It should be noted that this trend is supervised by the Department of Higher and Postgraduate Education of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The Center for International Programs and the Center of the Bologna Process and Academic Mobility attend meetings of the Working Group on mobility and internationalization.

According to the Action Plan for the implementation of State Education Development Program of Kazakhstan, as from 2015, it is planned to implement the academic mobility programs within the Bolashak scholarship program

One of the aims of Strategy for Academic Mobility in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2012-2020 is to ensure the openness and transparency of higher education and the achievement of balanced mobility. As realization of the Bolashak Program implies training students abroad, the Center for International Programs can carry out its activity only within the framework of external mobility. Among the indicators of external mobility (the most suitable for the "Bolashak" program which were identified in the Strategy as well) are the following indicators:

- an increased number of students traveling to countries of the EHEA for one training period by 50% annually (horizontal mobility);
- an increased number of students traveling to countries of the EHEA for the entire period by 10% annually (vertical mobility);
- an increased number of students traveling outside of the EHEA for one training period by 50% annually (horizontal mobility);;
- an increased number of students traveling outside of the EHEA for the entire period by 10% annually (vertical mobility);
- an increased number of graduates and postgraduates traveling to countries of the EHEA for one training period by 30% annually (horizontal mobility);
- an increased number of graduates and postgraduates traveling to countries of the EHEA for the entire period of training by 10% annually (vertical mobility);
- an increased number of PPP universities, traveling to countries of the EHEA on research and professional internship by 10% annually; and
- an increased number of PPP universities traveling outside of the EHEA on research and professional internship by 10% annually.

The first four indicators are directly related to student mobility.

The Center for International Program's plans within the framework of academic mobility programs

The rich and unique experience of the Center for International Programs has contributed to the creation of prerequisites for the internationalization of higher education and the acceleration of the processes of academic mobility in Kazakhstan. Analyzing the results of activity and achievements of the Center for International Programs for the last eight years (2005-2013), the Center can rightfully be called as one of the main reform participants in higher education system in Kazakhstan. Along with leading universities in the country, the Center for International Programs has helped to strengthen mobility creating a dynamic system of education management.

By carrying out the realization of the international Bolashak scholarship launched by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan and other intergovernmental programs, the Center for International Programs' staff accumulated valuable expertise as well as methods and mechanisms have developed over the years (for instance, the academic program-targeted method of selection, the training and mandatory work policy of Bolashak scholars at their employers' settings, a multifunctional e-Bolashak information system, receiving documents through the Service Centre called "*Studying abroad*", information platforms for the Center for International Programs in social networks, etc.), which have become powerful tools for the creation and development of new educational projects in the framework of academic mobility programs.

Since 2015, under the State Program of Education Development in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2011- 2020, in order to boost the development of academic mobility, students will study abroad for at least one academic term for the entire period of study (up to one academic year), through international Bolashak scholarship of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

As shown in Figure 1. for this purpose, it is planned to use the accumulated potential of the Center for International Programs with a construction on its base the Center for International Education with the following key functions:

- Operator training on intergovernmental grants;
- Development of student academic mobility; and
- Development of research mobility and exchange of teachers.

For the programs of academic mobility, it is planned to develop and approve a package of programs for different target groups, each with its own brand and memorable name using examples like the Fulbright or Muskie programs:

1. "*Satpayev*" program for research workers for research internships and joint development programs;
2. "*Kamkorshy*" program for administrative corps and boards of trustees to improve the quality of management and leadership in education;
3. "*Ybyray Attynsahn*" program for teachers of secondary schools and pre-schools;
4. "*Akhmet Baitursynuiy*" for English language teachers;
5. "*Sheber*" program for teachers of vocational and technical education; and
6. "*Shakirt*" program for students of HEIs.

Table 1. Structure of the mobility programs for different target groups.

Satpayev Research Mobility Scholarship Program	A variety of intern programs Analogue: Tempuss
"Kamkorshy" University Governance Mobility Program	For Board of Trustees and administration Analogue: University Administration Support Program (UASP) - IREX
Baitursynuly English for Teachers Program	Subject Teacher Training in English
Altynsarin Teacher Mobility (Excellence) Program	For school teachers, university teachers and college teachers. Analogues: Teaching Excellence & Achievement Program (TEA), Junior Faculty Development Program
"Sheber" Vocation & Technical (VET) Scholarship Program	Analogue: Education and Training Programs Rogaland - RKK
"Shakirt" Student Mobility Program	Analogues: Global UGRAD - IREX ERASMUS ERASMUS MUNDUS

The Center for International Programs also plans:

- An acceleration of process of the deep participation in the exchange programs of ERASMUS (program of student and teacher mobility within the framework of the European Union); ERASMUS MUNDUS (global version of ERASMUS, designed to give an "European" orientation to global higher education); TEMPUS IV (2007-2013) (mobility program in the field of science education of the EU and partner countries);
- The conclusion of the memorandum of cooperation with the administrators of the above mentioned programs to exchange experience in the selection and placement of academic mobility scholars and to develop its own criteria for selecting, placing and monitoring them. If necessary, the Ministry of Education and Science, via the Center for International Programs can act as a donor of funding programs as ERASMUS, ERASMUS MUNDUS, Tempus for targeted placement of Kazakhstani students, faculty and staff of HEIs of Kazakhstan by European administrators of these programs. The Center for International Programs can monitor targeted disbursement of funds in relevant funding programs of the European Union.]; And
- Work in close collaboration with the IREX agency, which acts as an administrator of Global UGRAD programs, University Administration Support Program (UASP), Teaching Excellence & Achievement Program (TEA) and Junior Faculty Development Program (JFDP), with the purpose of adapting the administration experience of these programs for the realization of the new programs of mobility for the Center for International Programs for teaching students, teachers and employees of HEIs, schools and colleges of the Republic of Kazakhstan.