



NAZARBAYEV
UNIVERSITY

Factsheet on Student Exchange Program (Academic Year 2026-2027)

PREPARED BY :

**Department of
Internationalization**

COORDINATING OFFICE:	For incoming and outgoing students, initial consultation: Department of Internationalization
WEBSITE:	https://nu.edu.kz/page/study-abroad-opportunities

SHORT INTRODUCTION

Founded in 2010 by the initiative of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nazarbayev University is a research-led and English-taught institution with the mission to lead the Higher Education Reform in the country and spread its expertise both nationally and regionally. NU offers 88 academic programs for Undergraduate, Master, and Ph.D., as well as Residency and Foundation-year programs. All courses are taught in English. Many of them developed with the support of our leading partner universities, such as the University of Cambridge (UK), the University of Wisconsin-Madison (USA), Duke's Fuqua School of Business (USA), the University of Pittsburgh (USA), the University of Pennsylvania (USA), the Colorado School of Mining (USA), and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (Singapore). The university now has over 7,200 students enrolled full-time. Academic courses offered at NU include those in the Humanities, Engineering, Computer Science, Robotics, Medicine, Education, Economics, and Political Science.

MAILING/COURIER ADDRESS	CONTACT PERSON
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ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2026 - 2027

Events	SPRING 2027
Dormitory check-in for new students	January 4 (M)
Start of Orientation for new students	January 6 (W)
Dormitory check-in for continuing students	January 8 (F)
First day of classes	January 11 (M)
COURSE DROP deadline	January 20 (W)
Course Withdrawal Period	January 20 (W) - March 10 (W)
COURSE ADD deadline	January 22 (F)
Break	March 1 - 8 (M-M)
Classes resume after the Break	March 9 (Tu)
COURSE WITHDRAWAL deadline	March 10 (W)
Last day of classes	April 23 (F)
Final exam period	April 26 (M) - May 6 (Th)
Registration for courses of the next academic period	May (TBA)
Official completion date for end of program for graduating students	May 8 (Sa) but MPA - January 31 (Su)
Dormitory check-out	May 8 (Sa) but graduating students - 2nd day after Graduation Ceremony
Grades posted on transcripts	May 17 (M)
Degree conferral upon the end of academic period	June 2027
Graduation Ceremony	June 2027 (TBA)

LINK FOR THE CALENDAR

APPLICATION RELATED INFORMATION

Application method	During the nomination period, partner universities should email the list of nominees with the exact study period before April 30 for the Fall semester and before September 30 for the Spring semester to the following email address: mobility@nu.edu.kz .
List of required application documents	• nomination provided by email by the home university coordinator; • certified academic transcript in English; • copy of passport; • a personal statement indicating the motivation and expected benefits of participating in Academic mobility.
Language requirements	English B2 level (IELTS, TOEFL) Language proficiency requirement can be waived in the following cases: • one of the earlier academic degrees was earned in a country with English as the language of official communication, academic instruction, and daily life; • an undergraduate degree is/was earned in a program that is/was officially taught in English; • have passed 60 ECTS (European Credits) in English-taught courses. In case this information is not clear from the transcript, the Home institution shall issue an English proficiency letter (confirmation); • NU Schools might consider other means of English Proficiency, though it is not guaranteed and is subject to decision.
When the admission result will be announced and the admission package will be sent?	Normally around early May for the Fall semester and around early October for the Spring semester. Department of Internationalization will send the confirmation to nominated students or an institutional coordinator by email.
Activities or services available to exchange students	Exchange students are able to use all university facilities.

COURSE/TRANSCRIPT-RELATED INFORMATION

Is course information (e.g.,description, syllabus) available online?	Please check https://registrar.nu.edu.kz/course-catalog for the course list with a description.
What kind of course can I choose as an exchange student in Nazarbayev University?	All courses are delivered in English, providing exchange students with a wide range of options. However, course selections must be approved by the home institution and may also be subject to restrictions at NU. Please note that some programs may require the completion of prerequisite courses.
Credit load to be taken for each semester (for exchange students)	Both Undergraduates and Graduates can take courses worth a minimum of 24 ECTS and a maximum of 36 ECTS per semester.
Are students allowed to take cross-faculty modules? If yes, are there any restrictions?	Students are allowed to take cross-faculty modules in case there are free slots for the courses and no standard prerequisites.
Is it possible for graduate students to conduct research or do a Thesis during their exchange studies?	Principally yes, but students need to get approval from tutors beforehand.
When will the transcript be issued?	Transcripts will be issued to the home university/students via registered mail. For the Fall semester students' transcripts, they will be delivered to students when the Spring semester starts, in the succeeding year and for the Spring semester students, transcripts will be delivered to students when the Fall semester starts in the same year. Transcripts will be mailed to the university's coordinator department. The soft copy transcript will be sent to students' personal email by the end of the semester.
How about the grading system at Nazarbayev University?	NU Undergraduate Schools use a letter grading system of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D and F. Detailed information can be found on the following link: https://registrar.nu.edu.kz/page/grades-gpa

ACCOMMODATION-RELATED INFORMATION

Where will exchange students be accommodated?	NU will try prioritizing university-level exchange students with on campus accommodation at NU dormitories.
How much dormitories at NU cost?	• 1 bed in double rooms: 1310 KZT/day (~163,750 KZT/semester) The total sum for the semester is calculated based on the average number of days in the semester — 125 days. However, the exact number of days may vary depending on the program's academic calendar.
How can the students apply for NU dormitories?	The newest information about the on-campus dormitory will be included in the Welcome Package sent to the new coming students.

ACCOMMODATION-RELATED INFORMATION

Is the exchange student required to obtain a student visa?	Yes. Please check the following website link to learn more about visas https://nu.edu.kz/page/incoming-students
If yes, will the university assist in the visa application?	Yes. The branch of the Department of Internationalization that works with International Students and Scholars will be assisting in obtaining a visa to Kazakhstan.
Is the exchange student allowed to work?	No. Exchange students are not allowed to work during their study period.
Recommended arrival dates	Students may arrive a week before the start of the semester. It is not suggestive that students arrive too much earlier by holding a tourist visa.
Is airport pick-up service available?	Not available.
Is an orientation program available? If yes, when will it be held?	Yes. It normally starts from the week before the semester commences. Introductions on university facts and regulations will be briefed during the orientation.

ESTIMATED EXPENSES IN LOCAL CURRENCY	
(THE ESTIMATED COSTS ARE FOR REFERENCE ONLY. ACTUAL EXPENSES MAY VARY FROM PERSON TO PERSON)	
University-administered accommodation	Please refer to the “accommodation-related information” part (Guidebook for Exchange Students page 9).
Private accommodation	Private accommodation is expensive near the university. Prices may vary from 300-480 USD (150000-250000 KZT) a month for just one room rent apartment. It is usually through real estate agencies can students find suitable accommodations.
Food/Meals (on-campus)	10 USD (approximately) – 5000 KZT
Non-local student insurance	As an international student and a member of our academic community, it is mandatory for you and your family members to have health insurance coverage and undergo a medical check-up. Incoming Exchange Students may purchase medical insurance at Nazarbayev University, but it is preferable to buy it in advance before arriving in Kazakhstan. the purchased insurance policy must include the following: • The policy must be valid for the entire period of stay in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan (RK). • Coverage of medical services within Kazakhstan. • Medical evacuation if necessary, based on medical indications, in case treatment required is not available in Kazakhstan, or repatriation of remains to the home country.This requirement is in line with international safety standards. For all other details, please consult directly with the insurance company. Make sure that you understand how the insurance works while being consulted.