

# RESEARCH

Research Services Office Newsletter

Issue 10, May 3, 2016



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# NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

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**Dear Colleagues and Students,**

We are pleased to bring you the 10<sup>th</sup> issue of our Research Newsletter!

This edition is quite special to us. First of all, it is the first small anniversary of our initiative to cover all research university events and share useful research information in the form of a newsletter. Your generous feedback and support is the main driving force for our development. We highly appreciate that.

Another special feature of this newsletter – we would like to pay tribute to our founding and current Provost Anne Lonsdale, who has left us on 30<sup>th</sup> April. We also would like to thank Loretta O'Donnell, Vice-Provost for Academic Affairs, who kindly wrote the tribute and wished Provost good luck in all her beginnings on behalf of the whole Nazarbayev University.

This issue also features an interview with our 'spotlight guest' Patrick Duparcq, Dean of the NU Graduate School of Business, who will share current activities and plans of the School with us.

We also prepared a note on a number of tips on how to win a grant from Saltanat Janenova, Assistant Professor at Graduate School of Public Policy. It will be especially beneficial for young researchers at NU.

At our "News" column you can find the news about recent research events at NU. As usual the level of research activity going on at NU is outstanding and we would just like to say a huge thank you for all your contributions to an ever developing research culture at NU.

We also shared the updated information on the currently available funding opportunities, available grants program, recent publications and plenty of other useful and interesting information.

***Sincerely,  
Research Team***

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# TRIBUTE TO ANNE LONSDALE

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*by Dr. Loretta O'Donnell, Vice-Provost for Academic Affairs*

**Anne Lonsdale left the University on 30<sup>th</sup> April after ten months as Acting Provost.**

In her time here, Anne has demonstrated every day that even the noblest strategic goals can be realized.

Anne returns to Cambridge University, to continue with her many roles, including Chair of The Council for Assisting Refugee Academics (CARA), Trustee of the European Humanities University in Vilnius and of the Open Society Foundation.

She will also return to her role as Trustee of Nazarbayev University and continue her steady oversight of the strategic vision and the growing reputation of our university.

Her leadership has been extraordinary. You may have seen her chairing meetings of Academic Council and Research Council, or as a senior colleague having lunch in La Tartine, or presenting information at School meetings and NUFYP events, or as a mediator during administrative negotiations. But there is more to Anne Lonsdale than you may realise.

Her career in higher education has taken her across the globe. Anne was a Trustee of the British Association for Central and Eastern Europe, the Inter-University Foundation and the Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences.

In 1991, she became Secretary-General of the Central European University, where among other things she established a Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy.

One of her strongest intellectual anchor points is Cambridge University, where she became President of New Hall in 1996, a position she held for twelve years. In tribute to her administrative skills, Anne served as Cambridge University's Pro-Vice Chancellor and Deputy Vice Chancellor, and also as a member of the Cambridge University Council, Trustee of Cambridge in America, Cambridge Foundation, Gates Cambridge Trust, Newton Trust, Cambridge European Trust and Chair of the Syndicate for the Fitzwilliam Museum.

Fittingly, in 2004, Anne received the prestigious award of CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) for services to Higher Education.

None of these roles and honours describes her unique style. Anne is a consummate professional, who will always prepare detailed notes prior to every meeting. She answers emails at all hours, and her energy is unflagging. She is also warm, funny and witty (in several languages, including Latin). It has been an absolute privilege to work with her and to learn from her every day.

Good luck and best wishes from all of us at Nazarbayev University.

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# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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## Interview with Dean Patrick Duparcq, GSB

*Nazarbayev University Graduate School of Business' (NUGSB) mission is to develop the global business leaders, entrepreneurs and visionaries who will be spearheading economic growth and innovation to help Kazakhstan to become leading economy of the region and a regional engine of the global economy.*

*NUGSB's full-time faculty come from leading business schools of the world and has been recognized for their expertise and scholarship.*

*NUGSB's research covers many areas, with special attention given to Finance, Entrepreneurship, and the study of Transitional and Emerging Markets.*

*NUGSB delivers a portfolio of General Management MBA programs in different formats and for different target groups (i.e. Executive and full-time), a Finance track for students with a career in the Financial industry, as well as a series of more specialized, shorter non-degree programs for executives, entrepreneurs and professionals at different levels.*

*Today we are having an interview with Patrick Duparcq, Dean of Nazarbayev University Graduate School of Business, who will share the current and future plans of the School with us.*



**Research Team:** Thank you for agreeing to have interview with us.

**Patrick Duparcq:** I'm happy to share our news with the NU Community.

**RT:** The first message that you receive when you look at the NU Graduate School of Business site is that "We are different". It is stated in one way or another almost everywhere. Can you please tell us what is different about your MBA programs and your school's approach to business education?

**PD:** Yes, indeed we think we are different from many other business schools. We should of course. We teach product differentiation and positioning in our marketing and strategy courses, and we should practice what we preach. Let me briefly mention several aspects in which we believe we are different from others.

**On a global scale,** we think we are

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different because most business schools don't have the unique environment that we have at NU. We may teach the same core courses (and we do it at a level comparable to any top business school in the world), but:

- our Full-time students have more international experience than most b-schools in the world (most have been abroad through the Bolashak program);
- our Executive students' profile ranks in comparison among those of top-10 schools of the world; (high profile students, significant years of work experience, diversity)
- our guest speakers are better, hands down than just about any school in the world, maybe one or two exceptions; (presidents, prime

ministers, global captains of industry, silicon valley icons, wall street movers and shakers, ...)

### **On a local (national) scale,**

- our impact on the national agenda (both for the private and public sector) is very substantial. For instance, our research on entrepreneurship is unique in the country and recognized internationally as part of the GEM consortium;
- our curriculum is not better or worse than other programs in Kazakhstan, but it's more strategic, more globally oriented, and taught by more world-class faculty. Our student not only have to know how to execute, but we believe they come out stronger

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strategically: we develop the business leaders, entrepreneurs and visionaries who are spearheading economic growth and innovation of tomorrow.

- Our faculty is recruited more competitively and more internationally than other business schools in Kazakhstan. Other business schools often struggle to become more globally oriented. We were globally oriented from our inception (our faculty comes from top international business schools).

In summary, in all components of what we do (research, faculty composition and teaching, student profiles), I believe we are quite different.

**RT:** What are the first results and achievement of your 'different' approach?

**PD:** We have a number of "achievements in progress". For, example our curriculum is quite unique. It does have fundamental disciplines in it, but at the same time it is very strategic, which means that what one acquires is not only basic business knowledge, but also students develop the skills necessary to think strategically in any business environment. Especially in

an economy in transition, this is highly desired skill.

Different is easy to say, but much harder to accomplish. The pressure to "keep up with the Jones'" is significant. We think we're well on our way to solidify our "different position" at a number of levels:

**First, we don't do everything.** We carefully selected 3 areas of focus where our educational, research and engagement efforts intertwine:

- Entrepreneurship
- Finance
- Emerging Markets

**Second, we pay more attention to strategic and global programs** than "nuts-and-bolts" programs. This is especially true in our executive training programs. We may still have some "Fundamentals of ..." programs on the books, but we'll increasingly do programs with strategic focus and focus on challenges for top management. The fact that 75% of our graduating class had jobs on graduation day seems to indicate we're on the right track.

**Third, we are building a portfolio of events and activities that have PR value outside Kazakhstan.** Our events are always accompanied by a press release on our website and sometimes generate global interest (e.g. a New York Times article last year, including a link to our website). The monetary value of this is immense.

**Finally, our faculty recruiting effort is extremely careful and selective.**

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This determines of course who gets hired, but it also generates international word-of-mouth among academic institutions that this indeed is a very special place and not just another startup business school. We hire faculty who not only teach existing theory and framework, but who do the research that creates new frameworks. Student wants professors who are considered one of the top-25 gurus in the world, not just read about them.

**RT:** What are some of the “new theories frameworks” that you hope GSB will contribute to?

**PD:** Big data is definitely one of them. We have more data than ever before on anything that touches our world: consumption, financial transactions, medical decisions, public choice, etc. How to extract intelligence from these huge amounts of data will require an integrated effort of all disciplines: business, statistics, computer science, biology, public policy, law, etc. Challenges include analysis, capture, data curation, search, sharing, storage, transfer, visualization, querying and information privacy. We are currently hiring international experts in big data applications in marketing and finance.

In finance, we’ll be uniquely positioned in the world to help many emerging markets in the future understand how to build a solid financial market. We have a research group that studies emerging industries (finance, new products, art, etc.) and the dynamics of emerging industries.

**RT:** The mission of NUGSB is “to make a



positive impact on society by developing the next generation of business leaders in Kazakhstan and Central Asia through our MBA and Executive Education Programs; and by creating and disseminating impactful knowledge and insights through business research”. How much attention do you pay to research component in your mission and why?

**PD:** The School’s strategy had three essential components – Teaching, Research and Engagement with the business community. They are not separate. What we do in our engagement inspires our research; what we do in our research, inspires our teaching in the classroom; and what we do in the classroom (esp. in non-degree programs) deepens our engagement with the business community. In other words, they create an ecosystem of interdependent equally important building blocks.

**RT:** Tell us please more about Research at GSB.

**PD:** Cutting edge research is at the heart of our mission. By engaging in world-class research in the fields of management, finance and economics, our faculty

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NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY



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translates global knowledge into local context. We focus on three major areas: Entrepreneurship, Finance and Emerging Markets.

Entrepreneurship is a broad topic that includes many disciplines such as innovation, technology, strategy, marketing, venture financing, and economics, among many others. Our research efforts touch on many of these issues and translate insights from around the world to the local context in Kazakhstan.

NUGSB has been a member of The Global

Entrepreneurship Monitor research consortium for over two years. GEM is the largest research project on Entrepreneurship in the world. The project assesses across countries the motives and aspirations of (potential) entrepreneurs as well as the attitudes of those around them, i.e. the climate for entrepreneurship in society. Initiated in 1999 as a partnership between London Business School and Babson College, the first study covered 10 countries. Since then nearly 100 'National Teams' from every corner of the globe have participated in the project, which continues to grow annually. NUGSB is now the National Team of Kazakhstan and interviews over 2,000 Kazakhstan entrepreneurs each year.

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Our second focal area of research is in Financial Markets. Research and teaching in this area cover key aspects of financial markets development, corporate finance, financial literacy and sovereign wealth fund management. Financial markets reform and development is a key policy area of the government in Kazakhstan. The Astana International Financial Center is planned to be launched in 2017 and GSB plans to play a major role in the development of Astana as an international financial center.

Our Finance Lab will be further expanded to cover all major financial data collections such as Bloomberg, Thomson-Reuters, WDRS, etc. The variety of data sources, finance tools, business news, market intelligence, and investment products all in one location will provide a powerful platform for learning and teaching finance. The Lab will primarily be used as an instructional and training facility for students and financial professionals who want to further a career in finance.

The last focal area of research concerns

emerging markets. This broad topic covers a variety of issues such as development of companies' capabilities in emerging markets, overseas expansion, and gaining and sustaining long-term competitiveness. These are issues that also resonate with firms in Kazakhstan, and the broader region as a whole. We are assembling a roster of faculty who are looking at issues of Emerging Markets from different perspectives and disciplines, with the goal of understanding how best practices from other emerging markets can be applied to Kazakhstan. Our comprehensive datasets on global market indicators are creating the foundation for all our future research in this area. Some of our early efforts focus on Kazakhstan and China as emerging markets.

**RT:** Thank you for very interesting conversation and good luck in all your beginnings!

**PD:** Thank you.

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# RESEARCH NEWS

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## Exploring the Experiences of Female-Leaders in Civil Service of Kazakhstan

**On 29 April 2016 the research team from the Graduate School of Education and Graduate School of Public Policy Nazarbayev University, Dr. Aliya Kuzhabekova, Dr. Saltanat Janenova and Ainur Almukhambetova, conducted a workshop on the topic “Exploring the Experiences of Female-Leaders in Civil Service of Kazakhstan” to present the results of their research and recommendations to key policy stakeholders.**

**This research project with financial support by the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs examined the experiences of 16 female leaders in Kazakhstani civil service.**

Kazakhstan is facing major deficit of female leaders in civil service. The number of women working in civil service (55%) exceeds the number of men, however, the share of women among political appointees has remained low (10%; 40 out of 386), versus approximately 25% in OECD countries. None of the females has been ever appointed as a governor of the region, there are only two female ministers and one female is the State Secretary. Kazakhstani female leaders tend to be involved in “caring”, lower-paid and female-dominated policy areas such as healthcare, education, labor and social protection.



Two Deputy Chairmen of the National Commission for Women and Family-Demographic Policy under the President of Kazakhstan (National Commission), Ms Elena Tarasenko and Ms Lyazzat Suleimen, Ambassador of Norway in Kazakhstan, representatives of the Ministry for Civil Service Affairs, United Nations Women, National Center for Human Rights, Public Administration Academy, several gender non-governmental organizations and Master students from GSE and GSPP participated in the workshop and discussion of the challenges faced by females in their career development.

Ms. Aliya Galimova, member of the Expert board of the National Commission shared her expert opinion regarding implementation of the Strategy for Gender Equality in Kazakhstan for 2010-2016. Ms. Gulnar Smailova from UN Women presented measures on balanced and equal participation of females and males in politics at decision-making level. Ms

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Tokzhan Seitova from the Ministry for Civil Service Affairs delivered a speech on civil service modernization from a gender perspective. Ms Gaukhar Nurakhmetova from the National Commission made a final remark that they are highly interested in gender research and policy recommendations particularly now, as they have started to design a new Strategy for Gender Equality in Kazakhstan.

The main finding of the study is that the major problem that Kazakhstani women face in civil service is related to the

gender-based division of labour and traditional family structure where the woman plays a role of the family caretaker for her husband's career advancement and upbringing children, while facing disadvantageous work conditions and gender stereotypes for her own career development. Following the workshop discussion, the research team plans to submit an official letter with recommendations to the National Commission in order to improve access to and performance in leadership civil service positions of females.

## Meeting with the Volkswagen Foundation

**The Volkswagen Foundation representatives met with the NU faculty and researchers from all Schools and Research Centers on April 19, 2016.**



The Volkswagen Foundation is the largest private research funder and one of the major foundations in Germany. Since 1962 the Foundation has granted more than 4.2 billion euros of funding for over 30,000 projects. Foundation capital amounts to 2.9 billion euros. In accordance with its statutes, the Volkswagen Foundation supports the humanities and social sciences as well as science and technology in higher education and research by providing targeted impulses through its funding. The Volkswagen Foundation perceives a special mission in providing support for junior researchers and fostering cooperation between researchers across the borders of disciplines, cultures, and national states. Another strong emphasis is placed on facilitating structural improvements to education and research in Germany. Frequently, the Foundation's objectives

are pursued in collaboration with other foundations and public funding organizations.

At the moment, there is one funding opportunity available for the researchers based in Central Asia. The funding initiative "Between Europe and the Orient – A Focus on Research and Higher Education in/on Central Asia and the Caucasus" was set up to support either projects that deal with current local developments or that are structurally anchored in the region. The deadline of the call for proposals is June 15, 2016.

NU researchers can also apply for the following funding schemes. **In most project calls, applicants need to collaborate with 1-2 research institutions in Germany.**

- The call "'Mixed Methods' in the Humanities?" supports projects in the

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- humanities and cultural studies that combine and synergize qualitative-hermeneutical and digital procedures, and explore their combination on the example of a shared research question.
- The call "International Research in Computational Social Sciences" offers financial support for cooperative research projects, both for international workshops and summer schools as well as for cooperative research projects between international postdoctoral researchers. Deadline: June 15, 2016.

- The funding initiative 'Experiment!' supports radically new research concepts in science, engineering as well as in the life sciences through a fast small grant scheme. Deadline: July 5, 2016.
- The funding initiative "Integration Molecular Component in Functional Macroscopic Systems" focuses on projects in the sciences, engineering and medicine linking up molecular or nanoscale units to form complex functional systems.

## Meeting with UNDP at Nazarbayev University

**On April 8, 2016 Research Services Office organized a meeting between UNDP and Nazarbayev University delegations to discuss potential collaboration projects.**

The delegation from UNDP side, chaired by Tuya Altangerel, Deputy Resident Representative, suggested an Action Plan with a number of initiatives, like collaboration work on Human Development Report Series, Start-Up Competition "Innovation Challenge" within Sustainable Cities, Replication of NU Technopark's innovative technologies in UNDP projects, Graduate Programme for students, internships, etc. NU delegation, chaired by Loretta O'Donnell, Vice-Provost for Academic Affairs, has agreed to participate in the initiatives suggested by UNDP. In a week time after the meeting Research Services Office in collaboration with the representatives from all Schools, National Laboratory Astana and Nazarbayev University Research and Innovation Systems completed the suggested Action plan with additional initiatives from the NU side.



*From Left to Right: Dr. Loretta O'Donnell, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs; Tuya Altangerel, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative; Dr. Byron Crape, Assistant Professor of Practice, NU School of Medicine*

It was also decided to create a joint NU-UNDP Council that will be convened twice a year. Research Services Office will administer all the activities with NU-UNDP framework. The collaboration on several projects has already started and Research Services Office is planning to inform about them in the coming newsletters.

# International Forum "Science & Business"

**On 12-13 April, 2016, the National Center of Science and Technology Evaluation (NCSTE) organized the International Forum "Science & Business" in the National Academy of Sciences in Almaty.**

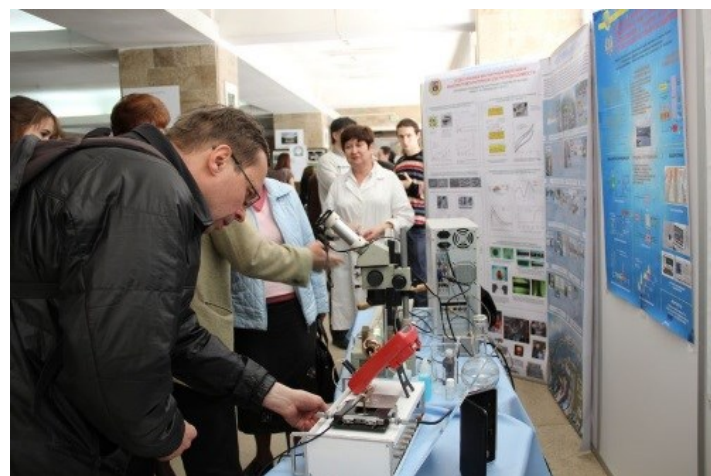
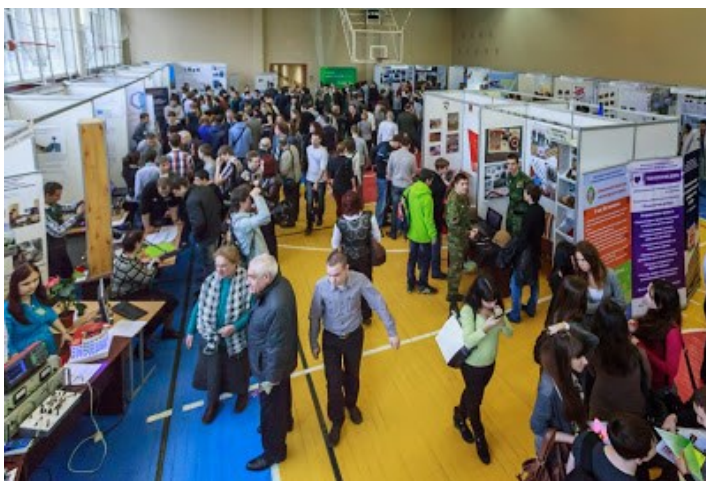
One of the key events of the Forum was the exhibition of the results of R&D Projects with high potential for commercialization. The event participants had an opportunity to present their newest projects to the representatives from business and industrial sectors, and also to the representatives from institutions of development.

During the master-class "**Funding of scientific projects and programs in the year of 2016. Instruments of state support in the field of science, technology and innovation**", representatives from national development institutions and organizations supporting commercialization processes of Kazakhstan, presented information



about the upcoming funding opportunities for researchers, which will be soon announced on the websites of [NATD](#) and [NCSTE](#). The presentations given during the International Forum can be seen by clicking on [this link](#).

**The Research Services Office will keep you updated on the upcoming calls for grant proposals.**



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# Nazarbayev University 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Instructional Technology Showcase

**The third Nazarbayev University Annual Instructional Technology Showcase was organized on April 14, 2016. This event was a unique opportunity for NU schools, centers and related units to demonstrate their usage of instructional technologies and innovative teaching to the NU faculty and students.**



In this issue, we would like to draw a particular attention to 2 events that took place during the 3rd Annual Instructional Technology Showcase. Dr. Chee Kai Chan, Assistant Professor, School of Medicine, held the event sharing his experience with poster presentations of the 1st year Medical students with a general public. The second event “New Geodesy Polygon Grant, Industry-Academia Partnership” was organized by Dr. Zhanay Sagintayev, Assistant Professor, School of Engineering, to encourage the NU Civil Engineering students to present their recent projects in front of the NU community.

Dr. Chee Kai Chan presented the *Enhancing medical genetics research, team building and communication skills through a symposium poster presentation simulation* by showcasing the process, effectiveness and challenges through photographs, videos and data from a poster symposium simulation carried out by the 1st year Medical students at NUSOM in September 2015. The presentation highlighted the different sets of skills that the exercise brought to enhance learning in medical genetics. To see the presentation, please [click here](#).

The Technology Showcase event of Dr. Zhanay Sagintayev was supported by the UK Royal Academy of Engineering, Leica UK and Kazakh Space Agency Garysh Sapary through the Industry Academia Partnership Program “Design and development of the GNSS geodesy training and research polygon, cooperation program of the Leica UK, Nazarbayev University, and Gharysh Sapary, Kazakhstan” Dr. Sagintayev organized a contest between Civil Engineering students, in which they were given 10 minutes to present their projects. The topic of the contest was “An efficient use of the NU campus space.” The visitors of the event were asked to evaluate the presentations using [the form](#). The 1st place was awarded to the project **“Development of sport and children facilities on NU campus by introducing separate bicycle roads and safe playgrounds”** developed and presented by Aknura Karabay, Dana Kavkayeva, Aiaru Mukhamedyarova, Alua Turlybek, Raushan Utemuratova, Alisher Zhumadilda. You may view all presentations of the contest participants [by clicking here](#). To see the project proposals of Dr. Sagintayev’s students for the **NU Green Campus Contest**, please [click here](#).

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# GRANTS & COMPETITIONS

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## Funding opportunities for UK-Kazakhstan collaborations under Newton - Al-Farabi Partnership Programme

The British Council and JSC Science Fund are pleased to announce the launch of a call for proposals for Institutional Links grants under the Newton – Al-Farabi Partnership Programme. These are grants for the development of research and innovation collaborations between UK and Kazakhstani institutions at the group, departmental or institutional level, as well as the commercial and not-for-profit sector.

Grants will be between £50,000 and £300,000 over a period of between four months and two years and will cover collaborations between the UK and Kazakhstan. Grants can cover costs which support research and innovation collaboration, including:

- research-related costs
- the exchange of researchers, students and industry staff (including SMEs and not-for-profit organisations)
- the costs of organising meetings, seminars, training
- other activities to establish and strengthen collaborative links.

Other activities can also be funded. For a full list of eligible and ineligible costs, please read the guidelines document



at the link above.

**The deadline for submitting proposals under this call is 16:00 UK time on 27 June 2016.**

We would be grateful if you could share this information with any colleagues or contacts who may be interested.

For further information on this call or the Newton – Al-Farabi Partnership Programme more widely, please contact [newton-al-farabi@kz.britishcouncil.org](mailto:newton-al-farabi@kz.britishcouncil.org) or [b.karimkyzy@science-fund.kz](mailto:b.karimkyzy@science-fund.kz).



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# Eurasia Programme

**Norwegian Embassy in Astana announced three calls for applications for funding of joint projects under the Eurasia Programme of the Norwegian Centre for Internationalization of Education (SIU).**

The Eurasia Programme supports collaboration projects between higher education institutions in Norway and Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The Programme is funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is administered by SIU.

## There are currently two open calls:

- For long-term projects (project period 1 January 2017 – 31 December 2019) a total amount of NOK 30 000 000 is made available. Projects with two collaborating partners may be awarded up to NOK 2 500 000, of which minimum NOK 500 000 must be spent on student mobility. Projects without student mobility may receive up to NOK 2 000 000. Projects with two or more partners in the cooperating countries outside Norway may be awarded up to NOK 3 000 000, of which minimum NOK 600 000 must be spent on student mobility. Projects without student mobility may receive up to NOK 2 400 000. **Deadline 5 September 2016, at 15:00 Norwegian time.**
- For short-term projects (project



period 1 January 2017 – 31 December 2018) a total amount of NOK 3 000 000 is made available. Projects may be awarded up to NOK 300 000. **Deadline: 17 October 2016, at 15:00 Norwegian time.**

## Who may apply?

- **The applicant** must be an accredited Norwegian higher education institution, or an institution with accredited higher education programmes.
- **The main partner** must be an accredited institution for higher education in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan and Ukraine. Institutions in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan may be included as network partners only. The main partner institution must provide education programmes at a level equivalent to that offered at the Norwegian applicant institution.
- **Applications** must be written in English and be submitted fully completed, including attachments, through SIU's online platform for applications and reporting (Espresso), latest within the call's final deadline.

**For more information, please files and visit <http://www.siu.no/eurasia>.**

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# Hurford Youth Fellows Program

The World Youth Movement for Democracy and the International Forum for Democratic Studies at the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) invite you to apply for the Hurford Youth Fellows Program in Washington, DC. Youth leaders from around the world will be considered for **three positions** throughout the year. For a **period of four months**, each fellow will have the opportunity to build his or her leadership and organizational skills and benefit from and contribute to the development of the World Youth Movement.

Central to each fellowship will be an assignment to develop online discussion platforms that would generate active engagement of World Youth Movement members. Each fellow will organize and lead a series of online discussions and information sharing on a key democracy issue that the fellow, in consultation with the Secretariat and Leadership Board, would identify. Youth Movement Fellows will identify, compile, present, and creatively share discussion materials and results.

Youth leaders **up to the age of 30** with a demonstrated interest in the advancement of democracy are welcome to apply; particularly those affiliated with



The graphic features a central logo with a globe and stylized human figures in blue, green, and red. To the right, the text reads "HURFORD YOUTH FELLOWS PROGRAM APPLICATION" in large blue letters. Above this, it says "2016-2017" and "Deadline 18 May, 2016". Logos for NED, National Endowment for Democracy, and forum are at the top right. Below the main text, a row of five small photos shows people at a conference. At the bottom, a blue banner states: "The Hurford Youth Fellows Program is made possible by generous support of the Hurford Foundation".

More info at [www.wymdonline.org](http://www.wymdonline.org)

democracy/civil society organizations are especially encouraged. **A monthly cost of living stipend and roundtrip airfare will be provided by the Program.**

Click [Here](#) to download the information handbook and application guidelines.

Click [Here](#) to access the online application.

**Deadline:** The deadline to submit your letter of recommendation is **18 May 2016.**

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## Sustainable Water Partnership (USAID) Call for Applications

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking applications for a Leader with Associates (LWA) Cooperative Agreement, from any qualified U.S. or non-U.S. organization, individual, non-profit, for-profit entity, or private and public institutions of higher education to fund a program entitled Sustainable Water Partnership (SWP).



The goal of the SWP is to increase resilience to water security risk at the basin, sub-basin, or local catchment scale. The activity will be designed to support USAID and host country governments in safeguarding access to adequate quantities of acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, socioeconomic development, and the protection of ecosystem services that underpin these development objectives.

**The estimated total program funding:**  
65,000,000 USD;

**Current Closing Date for Applications:**  
May 16, 2016.

For more information, please [click here](#).

## New Funding Opportunities



Image Source: [Dixie State University](#)

**We have identified new funding opportunities, all of which are suitable for the researchers based in Kazakhstan.**

For your convenience, we also added funding opportunities listed in the previous issues of the Research Newsletter. The information on them can be found in the 2nd and 3rd Sheets of the Excel document.

For more information, please [click here](#).

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# USEFUL INFORMATION

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## How to write a grant proposal? Tips for early-career researchers

**by Dr. Saltanat Janenova, Assistant Professor, GSPP**

Following good international practice, there is an expectation from each faculty member of Nazarbayev University to get an external funding for research. Getting funding through grant proposals can be a long and very stressful process. *"Kazakhstani local researchers need greater support in learning the grant application process as this skill is not taught at the local universities; it comes through your own experience and mistakes"* – says Saltanat Janenova from the Graduate School of Public Policy who shares her own advice on how to help your applications succeed.

### Double Check eligibility

It is important to understand what can be funded and what cannot on a particular call. Critically look at the priorities of the funding body you are applying to. If what you want to do explicitly links with what they want to know, you can move ahead. Personal tip: try to establish initial communication with a responsible contact person in the funding organization (via email/phone) to clarify the requirements and become visible.

### Time management

Brainstorm ideas on the grant application with your team members, peers and leave plenty of time for



Image Source: <http://professionalgrantwriter.blogspot.com/>

writing and re-writing grant proposal. Development of supporting documents also require time such as Gantt chart, budget proposal as well as English proof-reading if you are not a native speaker.

*(Continued on page 21)*

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## Use simple language

It is better to express your idea in a simple and clear language avoiding jargon terminology. You can send the application to your trustful person, not necessarily from your field, and get feedback on what needs to be highlighted and avoided.

## Significance of your research

Some critique that I have received in my practice is that the proposal sounded too academic, not on a practical part. It is necessary to justify why your proposed research is important now (at the time of application) and what benefits it bring to the policy-making community. In the public policy field you could show the links of proposed project with the current legislation and priorities of the government.

## Networking

Engage in networking both within university and subject area which will allow you to develop the support that you need to work your way up the research funding ladder. Collaborate with people who have more experience of getting funding and learn through the process.

## Never give up!

One harsh reality is that many excellent applications do not get funded as there

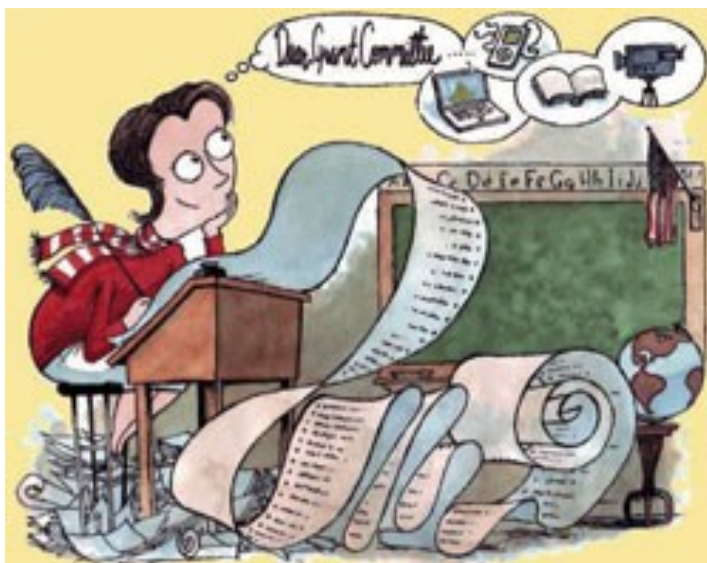


Image Source:  
<http://www.nea.org/assets/img/pubToday/1101/grant-art.jpg>

are funding constraints. Have another application already under consideration if/when the rejection comes. Never give up and become disappointed! Given that rejection rates are very high, you may try out a set of ideas several times before you decide that they are unfundable and move on.

Good luck to all NU colleagues with grant applications!

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# Managing your research pipeline

*By Matthew J. Lebo, Stony Brook University*

**In this issue, we would like to share the tips on how to manage your research pipeline, given by Dr. Matthew J. Lebo, s professor of political science and director of the Center for Behavioral Political Economy at Stony Brook University . We hope you will find [the article](#) useful for your research.**

A researcher’s “pipeline” refers to the progression of papers from the idea stage to the publication stage. Tenure-track faculty and graduate students often are advised that a busy pipeline is the way to tenure. However, beyond the simple encouragement to “work harder,” “write more,” and “publish more,” not much direction is given to junior scholars regarding how they should think about and manage their research pipeline. How does one develop a large number of papers from their first stages to the pages of respected journals? This article discusses the author’s system for pipeline management. The system works (1) by separating the difficult exercise of publishing a paper into eight manageable stages; and (2) by organizing a set of papers using these steps according to a practicable timeline.

Some tasks seem significantly more difficult when thought of as a whole rather than as the sum of their parts. Each fall, new tenure-track assistant professors are confronted with the fact that they must publish a certain number of papers within five or six years or be denied tenure. 1 Beginning a new job with new

teaching and service responsibilities can make a large quantity—for example, 10 publications at a research-intensive university—sound far out of reach. How can such a monumental task be approached? My system examines this as a longer series of small hurdles that are more easily cleared. Although separating goals into “micro-goals” is not a new concept, this article outlines a system that compartmentalizes the publication process, creates a point system for micro-goals, and provides a method for timing the micro-goals and assessing progress. By following the system, tenure-track professors can establish a weekly schedule of activities to monitor their overall progress. The article outlines points on work habits, discusses the division of a publication into eight stages, and offers advice on how to progress from one stage to the next. The point system for keeping track of progress is described along with other suggestions to manage one’s progress to tenure

**To see the full article, please [click here](#).**

# Research Performance Evaluation using SciVal

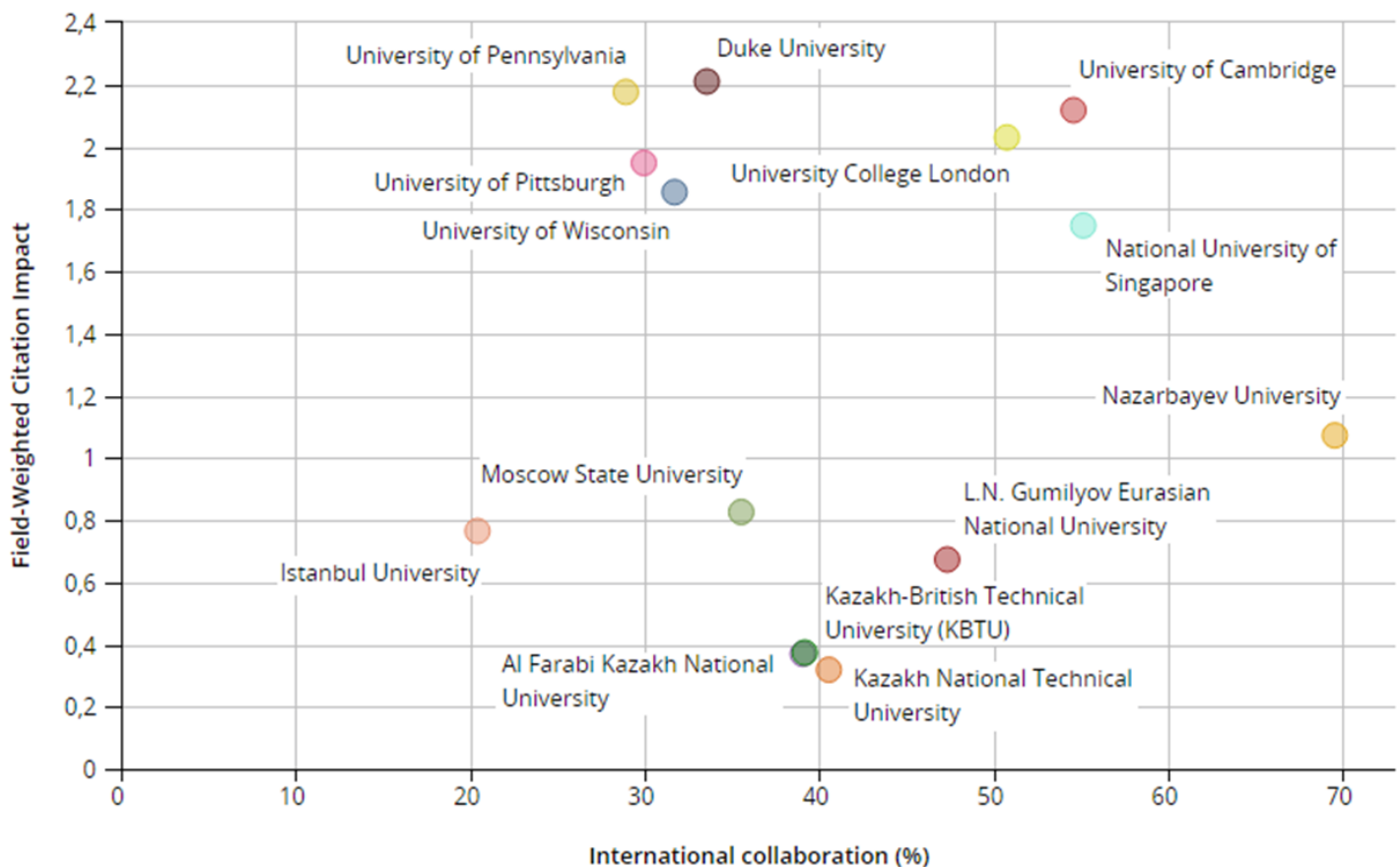
**In this month's issue, we are delighted to share an updated presentation on the research performance of Nazarbayev University using the SciVal research solution.**

Since its inception in 2011, Nazarbayev University faculty and researchers have released 675 peer-reviewed publications indexed by Scopus, and have been cited 1,465 times (source: Scopus, April 29, 2016). The approximate number of citations per the peer-reviewed publication is 2.2.

In order to provide you with more comprehensive information on the NU's research performance, [we prepared a](#)

[presentation](#) using SciVal research evaluation platform that is based on Scopus.

If you have any questions regarding the provided information, please contact Aiman Temirova (email address: [aiman.temirova@nu.edu.kz](mailto:aiman.temirova@nu.edu.kz)), Manager for Research Monitoring and Assessment, Research Services Office.



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## New Publications of Nazarbayev University

Google Alerts is one of Google's tools to keep track of trends, interesting topics, or anything really new that appears on the web. We would like to introduce you the recent alerts (*since April 1, 2016 – May 1, 2016*) on the published papers by our colleagues so you can keep track on NU research successes.

For more information, please [click here](#).





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# CONGRATULATIONS!

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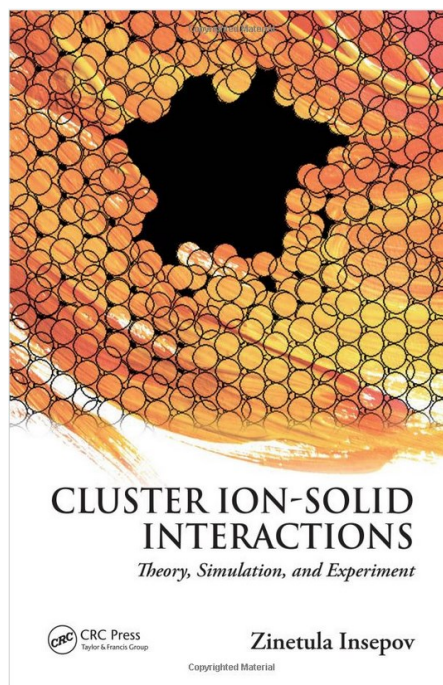
## Congratulations to Professor Zinetula Insepov!

**On behalf of Nazarbayev University, we would like to congratulate Professor Zinetula Insepov, NURIS, on publishing a book "Cluster Ion-Solid Interactions: Theory, Simulation, and Experiment."**



Prof. Zinetula Insepov is an adjunct professor in the School of Nuclear Engineering at Purdue University and a professor in the Department of Condensed Matter Physics at the Moscow Engineering Physics Institute (MEPhI). Prof. Insepov is the chief scientist and head of the Nanosynergy Laboratory at Nazarbayev University. Prof. Insepov is also a founding faculty fellow of the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology (Skoltech)/Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) initiative. He has previously held positions at Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg, Kyoto University, Epion Japan, and Argonne National Laboratory where the book was mostly written.

**Cluster Ion-Solid Interactions: Theory, Simulation, and Experiment** provides an overview of various



concepts in cluster physics and related topics in physics, including the fundamentals and tools underlying novel cluster ion beam technology. The material is based on the author's highly regarded courses at Kyoto University, Purdue University, the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, and the Moscow Engineering Physics Institute as well as his research results on cluster ion beam applications at Kyoto University.

The author introduces the basic principles of statistical physics and thermodynamics before covering applications, experimental justifications, and practical implementations. He describes classical nucleation theory and explains the

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drawbacks of this theory, showing how accurate modeling and simulations are necessary to justify theoretical approaches and simplifications.

**For more information, please click on this [link](#).**

## Congratulations to the winners of the Industry-Academia Partnership Programme grants!

**On behalf of Nazarbayev University community, we would like to congratulate recipients of grants from the Industry Academia Partnership Programme.**



Under its remit as a delivery partner of the Newton Fund, the Royal Academy of Engineering (UK) has partnered with the National Agency for Technological Development (Kazakhstan) to enhance engineering teaching, research and innovation capacity in Kazakhstan through building bilateral industry-academia linkages. This programme also aims to foster greater ties between innovation stakeholders in both countries.

After a rigid selection, Nazarbayev University researchers from NLA, NURIS and School of Engineering were awarded with the Industry Academia Partnership Programme (IAPP) grants.

**Dr. Yerbol Akhmetbekov and Dr. Georgios Kopanos**, NLA, received funding for their project "Increase of energy efficiency in Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plants using state-of-the-art optimization methods: Case study in LLP "Karagandy Utility System" to conduct joined research with Cranfield University and LLP "Karagandy Utility

System".

**Dr. Diyar Tokmurzin**, NURIS, received funding for 2 projects - "Demonstration of advanced energy system optimization methods on an industrial chemical (petrochemical) facility in Kazakhstan

for high energy and cost efficiency on process industries" with the University of Manchester and Atyrau Oil Refinery, and "Investigation of municipal solid waste blending effect on reactivity of coals in circulating fluidized bed combustion and gasification processes " with the University of Sheffield and Eurasian Group Research, Engineering and Development Centre, Ltd, to build bilateral industry-academia linkages.

**Dr. Timur Saliev**, NLA & School of Engineering, received funding from the IAPP to build industry-academia linkages with the University of Brighton and Romat, Pavlodar, within his project "Wound dressings for malodorous chronic ulcers".

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**Dr. Talgat Nurgozhin**, NLA & School of Engineering, received the IAPP grant to conduct joined research with the MAST Carbon International Ltd, UK, within his project "A medical device based on activated carbon monolith ."

**Dr. Yevgeniy Nikitin and Dr. Vasilis Inglezakis**, School of Engineering, received funding to build industry-academia linkages with the InEU, Pavlodar, University of Brighton, and Bo -Na Ltd, Pavlodar within the project "Nanomaterials engineering for environmental remediation: deep decontamination of the Lake Bylkyldak from mercury."

**Dr. Zhanay Sagintayev**, School of Engineering, received funding from the Industry-Academia Partnership Programme to conduct joined teaching and research activities in collaboration with Leica, UK, and Kazakhstan Garysh Sapary within the project "Design and development of the GNSS geodesy training and research polygon, cooperation program of the Leica UK, Nazarbayev University, and Gharysh Sapary, Kazakhstan ."

**It is important to note, that all NU applications were successful. This is a great achievement of the NU research community. We wish all the best to our colleagues with their research projects!**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Q&A Session on Horizon 2020 at NU

**Nazarbayev University together with the European Commission plan to organize a Q&A session on "Horizon 2020: the EU Framework Program for Research and Innovation" in May, 2016 (exact date TBC).**



The event will be held in an interactive format. The invited guests of the Q&A session will be the European Commission delegates from the EC Office in Astana.

**If you wish to participate in the Q&A Session, please send an email to A i m a n T e m i r o v a (aiman.temirova@nu.edu.kz) with**

**the research area you work in and questions you want our guests to answer.**

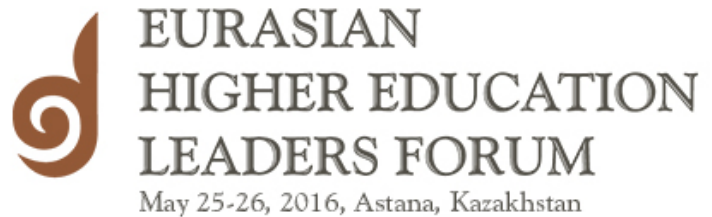
All the information presented at the Horizon 2020 **Information Day at NU on November 26, 2015**, [can be found here](#).

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# Eurasian Higher Education Leaders' Forum

## May 25-26, 2016

**The annual Eurasian Higher Education Leaders' Forum, one of the biggest events in the field of education in the Eurasian region, will take place on May 25-26, 2016 at the Nazarbaev University.**



**The Forum aims to bring together education experts and create a platform for dialogue to discuss the most recent issues in education.**

The theme of the EHELF is "Higher education and modernization of the economy: innovative and entrepreneurial universities".

Following sub-themes will be considered by the panelists:

- Entrepreneurial and innovative universities;
- Role of higher education in the modernization of the economy;
- The university of the future;
- Graduate employment and the needs of the economy.

**LANGUAGE OF THE CONFERENCE:** The languages of the conference are English, Kazakh, and Russian. For your convenience the devices for simultaneous translation will be available at the registration desks. The translation will be done into 3 languages: Kazakh, Russian, and English. Please note that you can check out the devices for simultaneous translation only if you present your ID card (passport, national identity card).

At G-Global website, there is also a virtual project which creates the same platform

for discussion of the theme at <http://group-global.org/ru/session/11268>

**We invite you to actively participate in the discussion by uploading your reviews, reports, analysis, studies, expert opinions in the form of articles and comments.**

The goal set by AEF is to have at least 50 articles (1-3 pages) and 7 video-conferences in any of three languages - English, Kazakh or Russian.

**REGISTRATION:** Participant registration closes **May 15, 2016**

**To see the full announcement, please [click here.](#)**

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# 21st International Symposium on Heavy Ion Fusion

## 18-22 July, 2016

You are cordially invited to participate in the 21st International Symposium on Heavy Ion Inertial Fusion (HIF2016), to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 18-22 July 2016.

This symposium continues the series of symposia that began in Berkeley in 1976. The most recent symposia occurred in Lanzhou, China (2014), Berkeley, USA (2012), Darmstadt, Germany (2010), Tokyo, Japan (2008), and Saint-Malo, France (2006). The purpose of the symposia is to review the status of heavy ion fusion research, and to stimulate further progress in understanding inertial fusion energy production and the science and technology needed for its implementation.

Heavy-ion accelerators are promising candidate drivers for energy production due to their high repetition rate and high efficiency. We also expect to critically assess the PW-laser applications in ICF (Inertial Confinement Fusion). A positive emphasis will be also given to the ongoing heavy ion accelerator projects at large institutions located in Europe, Russia, China, Japan, USA and others. The highlighted topics of HIF2016 will cover:

- Heavy-Ion Inertial Fusion and other ICF programs;



- Properties of Warm Dense Matter: Theory, experiments, and advanced diagnostic techniques;
- Ion sources and high power accelerators, Pulsed Power (pulsed energy);
- Fusion target physics, Hydrodynamic instabilities;
- Beam-plasma interactions, Atomic processes in plasma, laser plasma interactions;
- Applications of ICF;
- TOKAMAK, Nuclear Science (related to the Kazakhstan activities);
- Dark Energy and Dark Matter research;
- Heavy ion stopping.

In case you have any questions, please send us an email at [hif2016@nu.edu.kz](mailto:hif2016@nu.edu.kz), and visit the symposium website [www.hif2016astana.org](http://www.hif2016astana.org). To see the full announcement, please [click here](#).

We look forward to seeing you in Astana!

**Dieter Hoffmann, Kanat Baigarin, Joe Kwan, Alexander Tikhonov**

*Chairman, Local Chair and Co-Chairs*

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# Horizon 2020 Proposal Development Lab

## June 6-10, 2016

### Budapest, Hungary

The Lab is a unique five-day intensive training programme covering all the theoretical and practical aspects of developing and submitting competitive project proposals under the EU's research and innovation programme Horizon 2020.

The Lab has been developed by Europa Media in response to the recurring demands of their training participants for a longer and more comprehensive course, providing a complete insight into Horizon 2020 and the necessary skills to develop and submit winning proposals.

The Lab will provide you with a unique opportunity to gain direct insight into the daily work of Europa Media and Geonardo teams, and experience first-hand how the Europa Media develops their proposals and manage their projects.

During the 5-day Lab, you will:

- Get a complete insight into the Horizon 2020 programme and the opportunities it offers;
- Gain the necessary skills to turn your innovative ideas into winning concepts;
- Understand how to conceive competitive Horizon 2020 proposals;
- Learn how to address adequately the impact and exploitation issues in your proposals;
- Obtain the know-how to plan a sound project budget;
- Understand the evaluation process and context to better conceive your proposal;
- Get the opportunity to interact with



*Image Source: <https://www.eutrainingsite.com/training->*

our project managers, ask questions and hear their real-life stories;

Network and exchange experiences with leading universities, research institutions and companies from around the EU and beyond.

This course is built on the Europa Media direct experience gained over the past 15 years from developing and submitting proposals and implementing projects under the EU's Research Framework Programmes, and recently under Horizon 2020. The trainers of Europa Media are actual project managers, coordinators and financial administrators of EU-funded research and innovation projects. They conceive and develop their own project proposals in conjunction with European and international partners, and implement their projects as coordinator or partner, being a work package or task leader.

**Standard participation fee: 1990 EUR**

For more information, please [click here](#).

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# Conference on Gender and Excellence: the challenges are undiminished

## June 21, 2016

**On 21 June the SNSF, including the members of the Gender Equality Commission, will hold the conference "Gender and Excellence: Challenges in Research Funding II" - a necessary follow-up to the first conference of the same name, held in October 2014.**

Much has been done to improve the gender balance in science – but the challenges remain formidable. Men continue to hold a disproportionately high proportion of decision-making positions in science. Women have fewer opportunities to influence the research agenda. There are different reasons for this, as a large number of studies have shown .

### **Two panels: gender bias and gender perspectives**

The second international conference of the SNSF on Gender and Excellence will focus on a potential gender bias in the perception and evaluation of excellence as well as on the inclusion of the gender dimension in specific research areas. The first panel, on gender bias, will examine how the perception and evaluation of excellence are linked to gender. In this context, the results of new studies will be presented and discussed. The second panel, on gender perspectives, will investigate to what extent gender analysis needs to be integrated into research. The conference language is English.



*Image Source: [Swiss National Science Foundation](#)*

### **Award of the Marie Heim-Vögtlin (MHV) Prize**

The conference will be followed by the award ceremony for the Marie Heim-Vögtlin Prize 2016. The prize is awarded by the SNSF in recognition of outstanding research work conducted by an MHV grant holder.

[Conference on Gender and Excellence on 21 June 2016: Programme \(PDF, 132 KB\)](#)  
[Conference on Gender and Excellence on 21 June 2016: Registration](#)

[First Conference on Gender and Excellence on 22 October 2014](#)

[Marie Heim-Vögtlin \(MHV\)](#)

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# Master's degree in Subterranean Reservoirs of Energy

**Application Deadline: June 1, 2016**

The "Geo-Energies" French-Kazakh Research and Training Center announces a call for admission to a new international Master's degree program in Subterranean Reservoirs of Energy.

3 reputable universities from Kazakhstan, KazNU n.a. Al-Farabi & KazNITU n.a. Satpaev, and France, University of Lorraine, joined forces to sign an agreement establishing a double degree in Subterranean Reservoirs of Energy.

The double degree takes place over the course of two academic years with the first year in Almaty and the second year (5 months) in Nancy, France + 6 months internship in any company or research center in the world.

## **SELECTION:**

Applicants will be examined by a joined admissions board comprising representatives of University of Lorraine, KazNU and KazNITU. Successful applicants will be notified by post and email.

## **REQUIREMENTS:**

- Hold a Bachelor's degree in one of the following majors: reservoir engineering, geology/ engineering/ O&G; petroleum geosciences; mechanical/fluid physics; applied

# GE-ENERGIES

mathematics; IT or numerical modeling; geophysics.

- Strong knowledge of English.

## **IMPORTANT DATES:**

- Application deadline: June 1, 2016;
- Written exam: June 15, 2016 (at KazNITU, Almaty);
- Interview: Based on the exam results.

To apply, please send the following documents to [geoenergies@gmail.com](mailto:geoenergies@gmail.com):

- CV;
- Statement of Purpose;
- Completed application form

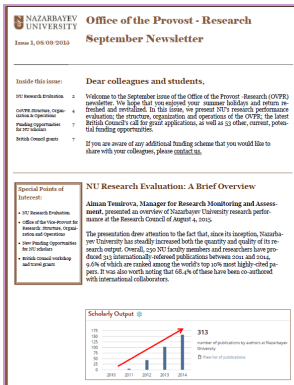
An application form can be downloaded from the website of the [\*\*French Embassy in Kazakhstan.\*\*](#)

If you have any questions, please call +7(727)2438432.

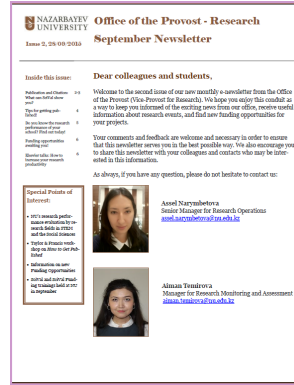


# NEWSLETTER'S PREVIOUS ISSUES

Take a look back through the previous issues of our Newsletter!



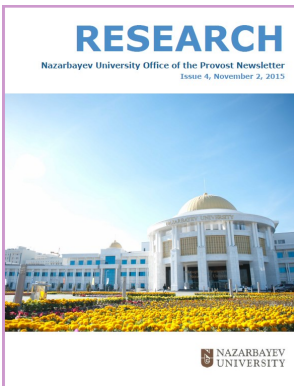
**Issue #1**



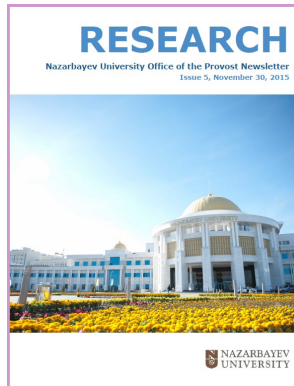
**Issue #2**



**Issue #3**



**Issue #4**



**Issue #5**



**Issue #6**



**Issue #7**



**Issue #8**



**Issue #9**



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