

# RESEARCH

Research Services Office Newsletter

Issue 9, April 4, 2016



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# NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

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**Dear Colleagues and Students,**

Welcome the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of our Newsletter. We are pleased to say that the number of our readers is increasing with every released newsletter, which reflect the growing interest in research life of NU. We would like to sincerely thank you for that. We also hope that our newsletters by highlighting all remarkable research events and opportunities will make research at NU more collaborative - whether between individuals, interests groups, Schools, Centers or students.

This research newsletter also demonstrates increasing number of research events happening at NU - Discovery Days ThermoFischer Scientific (March 2-3, 2016), "Resilient Structures and Infrastructure" workshop (March 14-17, 2016), "Water Management and Environmental Impact Assessment in the Oil and Gas Industry" workshop (March 14-17, 2016), Workshop on "Proposal Writing and Finding Funding for Research Projects" as part of the Newton – Al-Farabi Partnership Programme (March 16, 2016). Stay with us if you want to be at the center of NU events.

The "Spotlight" guest of our April newsletter is Saltanat Janenova, Assistant Professor of Graduate School of Public Policy, who shared with us current research activities and plans of Graduate School of Public Policy and information about her current projects.

Research Team seeks to cultivate a broad and diverse research culture that has a positive effect on the lives of our students, on academic and administrative staff, and on the University we serve. Therefore we continue our mission by publishing plenty useful information on funding opportunities, announcements of major NU research events and programs recruitment.

Thank you for staying with us!

***Sincerely,***  
***Research Team***

For any further information please contact:  
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# SPOTLIGHT

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## Interview with Dr. Saltanat Janenova, GSPP

*Mission of Graduate School of Public Policy is improving the quality of life of the people of Kazakhstan and Central Asia by training leaders to improve governance through excellence in teaching, research and executive development that focuses on key policy and leadership challenges.*

*Main strategic directions of GSPP at NU are:*

- 1. Become the School of choice for public sector leaders in Central Asia. The goal is to provide an educational environment that enables students to acquire relevant skills and knowledge, and are ready to make a significant contribution to Kazakhstan and the Central Asian region.*
- 2. Build strong international collaboration and network. The goal is to be an active player in an international network of policy innovators*
- 3. Cultivate and maintain a sustainable productive and collegial workplace. The goal is to attract and retain excellent personnel who, through their teaching, research and administrative support, will contribute effectively towards achieving GSPP goals over the long term.*

*These are remarkable facts about GSPP:*

- GSPP's Master programmes of Public Policy (MPP) and Public Administration (MPA) train students to hit the ground running, offering them practical, hands-on and intensive experience in policy development and analysis. Moreover, students in the MPA Pro-*



*gramme earn their degree while retaining their jobs, staying on their career trajectories, and enhancing their professional network locally.*

- GSPP had its first alumni cohort in 2015 and plan to launch its first executive doctoral degree program in 2017 and PhD program in 2019.*
- Since 2011 – GSPP have trained over 350 government officials including senior level civil servants*
- Since 2013 GSPP have published 66 publications including book chapters, papers in peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed journals, conference papers and other papers.*

*Today, we have a chance to talk to Saltanat Janenova, Assistant Professor in GSPP, who kindly agreed to shed a light*

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Dean Weng Tat giving a welcoming speech at the Executive course for government officials

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on current research activities and achievements of GSPP as well as share information about her research projects and plans.

**Research Team:** Thank you for accepting our invitation.

**Saltanat Janenova:** Thank you for inviting.

**RT:** Can you please tell us about research activities of GSPP and its achievements?

**SJ:** Starting from April 2015 we have conducted a series of policy workshops related to the international tendencies in civil service and anti-corruption development for the major Civil Service entities in Kazakhstan: the new Ministry for Civil Service (former Agency for Civil Service and Anticorruption) and various government bodies (Ministries for National Economy; Finance; Investment and De-

velopment; Defense etc). GSPP has received strong support in organizing these workshops from its strategic partner, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP), and Cornell University whose professors have actively shared good practices in civil service reform from the USA, Western countries and South-East Asia. In particular, I would like to emphasize great contribution from Professor Eduardo Araral and Professor Donald Low from LKYSPP as well as Professor Charles Whitehead from Cornell University.

On 28 January 2016 GSPP jointly with the Ministry for Civil Service, European Union project "Civil Service Modernization in Kazakhstan", and United Nations Development Programme/Regional Hub for Civil Service co-organized an international conference "Nursultan Nazarbayev and Kazakhstani model of civil service". GSPP always strives to connect the academic research with its application in real government entities. Policy workshops are very effective in deriving international good practices, the successful commu-

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Best paper award, Seoul Public Management Conference, July 2014

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nication of policy recommendations and stimulating reflections of policy makers and government officials on the applicability and relevance of these recommendations to the Kazakhstani context. The stream of work on building cooperation with external stakeholders and government bodies is led by the GSPP Executive Director, Fatima Zhakypova, whose professional connections as a former government official proved to be extremely useful in this regard.

GSPP has managed to build partnership relations with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). As you well know, the President

has set a political vision for Kazakhstan to meet OECD standards in all sectors to become a member of the group of 30 most developed countries. In November 2015 we jointly conducted a Senior Officials' Retreat on "Role, Functions and Performance of the Centre of Government". The Senior Officials' Retreat provided a space for senior officials from Kazakhstan and OECD countries to exchange lessons learned and discuss possibilities for the implementation of the related recommendations flowing from the *2014 OECD Review of Central Administration of Kazakhstan* which I have co-authored as a part of the OECD team. In March 2016 GSPP co-organized with OECD two seminars for the mid-level management of the government bodies related to Open Government and Decentralization topics. The participants exchanged OECD and Kazakhstani experience in open government and decentralization reforms, and discussed challenges faced by our country from the perspectives of local governments, civil society, and external experts. GSPP has been negotiating on joining the OECD Global Network of Schools of Governance which provides direct access to OECD governance expertise and enables exchange of national schools' experiences and good practices in ensuring that public sector employees have the skills and competencies to address current and future priorities.

Another significant event that GSPP has recently been involved in is Cornell University Symposium in January 2016 where Dr. Aziz Burkhanov and Dr. Omer Baris shared the findings of their research. Dr. Aziz Burkhanov presented his paper on "Kazakhstan's Identity-Building Policy: Soviet Legacy, State Ef-

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forts and Societal Reactions". Dr. Omer Baris presented a joint paper co-authored with Professor Riccardo Pelizzo and myself on "Objective or perception-based? A Kazakhstani debate on the most ideal corruption measure." This paper is based on the work of co-authors (Prof Pelizzo and Prof Baris) who have been involved in the design of a new methodology for measuring corruption in Kazakhstan which was led by the Institute of Public Policy under Nur-Otan Party.

One of the key performance indicators of the GSPP is participation in the inter-governmental working groups. For example, several GSPP professors and Executive Director are members of the working groups related to different areas of civil service reform such as anti-corruption and HR policies.

**RT:** What is the role of GSPP in current changes happening to civil service in Kazakhstan?

**SJ:** In my view, capacity building workshops delivered by the GSPP jointly with the LKYSPP, Cornell University and OECD have had a very positive effect on the reform initiatives that have recently taken place as well as strengthening links between academia research and policy making. Many recommendations that were shared with the workshop participants as good international practices have been reflected in important conceptual documents for the country, like the Nation's Plan "100 concrete steps to implement five institutional reforms" (particularly, within the first institutional reform on civil service). The Ministry for Civil Service designed several new laws which were shared as legislative drafts with the GSPP, LKYSPP and Cornell University for feedback before they were passed to the Parliament. The new Civil Service Law, Law on Combating Corruption and new Ethics Code for civil

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Participants at the guest lecture by Kishore Mahbubani, Dean of Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

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servants were approved in December 2015. It is a very good sign that shows trust and legitimacy that Ministry for Civil Service has put in our School and our partners. It is also highly rewarding to see that Kazakhstani government officials have become more open and receptive to new innovative ideas and constructive critical remarks on the problematic aspects of civil service system.

**RT:** One of the main goals of NU Research Plans is to enhance collaboration between Schools and research centers. Does GSPP have collaboration projects with other NU Schools?

**SJ:** Yes, we have a couple of good collaboration examples. Professor Peter Howie jointly with Professor Zauresh Atakhanova from the School of Humanities and Social Sciences have conducted a study on resource booms, structural transformation, and labour force dynamics using Kazakhstan as a case study. This interdisciplinary study investigates the dynamics of labour force specifically with skilled and unskilled in key sectors of the economy as the result of a resource boom.

Another example is collaboration with the Graduate School of Education (GSE). Dr. Aliya Kuzhabekova, Ainur Almukhambetova (GSE PhD student) and myself have been awarded with a research grant by the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) for a project "Female Leadership in the Civil Service of Kazakhstan including Education Sector". 82 university teams from the Central Asia and Caucasus region took part in this competition and only 10 teams have been successful including two teams from Kazakh-



*OECD workshop*

stan: NU and KIMEP. The aim of our research project is to analyze experiences of women holding decision-making positions both in female and male-dominated areas of the Kazakhstani civil service, to investigate how they address issues of work-life balance and challenges faced during their career development. We will communicate a policy brief and policy recommendations to improve representation of females at decision-making positions in Kazakhstan at the workshop with policy-makers from the National Commission for Family and Women Affairs, experts from UN Women and gender non-governmental organizations in April 2016.

Taking this unique opportunity I would like to encourage NU Schools and Research Centers to collaborate more actively on inter-disciplinary projects. I have really enjoyed working with colleagues from the GSE: we have brought different perspectives from public policy and education areas on the same policy issue which enriched our study. GSPP is always eager to start new initiatives and we would be highly interested to submit joint proposals including for IASANU call. In case of interest, please contact our Manager for research Azhar Umbetova

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([azhar.umbetova@nu.edu.kz](mailto:azhar.umbetova@nu.edu.kz)) for information about current and future projects of GSPP.

**RT:**What plans does GSPP have for research this year?

**SJ:** Professor Riccardo Pelizzo has been doing research on the measures of party system change with Zim Nwokora from Melbourne Law School (Australia). Their co-authored paper on the political consequences of party system change was recently published in *Politics and Policy*. Professor Peter Howie has received a grant from INSEAD Innovation & Policy Initiative and written a book chapter (forthcoming) on "Kazakhstan's diversification strategy – Are policies building linkages and promoting competition?". This research attempts to critically review Kazakhstan's development strategies and plans with specific interest given to industry competitiveness and individual firm efficiency and their interconnectedness with economic diversification using Morris, Kaplinsky and Kaplan's (2012) "building linkages" conceptual framework.

Professor Aziz Burkhanov is doing a nation-wide survey on the determinants of civic and ethnic nationalisms in Kazakhstan focusing specifically on perceptions of inter-ethnic relations as well as on socio-demographic factors to study people's support of civic and ethnic nationalisms in Kazakhstan. Professor Omer Baris is doing research related to microeconomic theory, bargaining and game theory with a special focus on asymmetric information in public economics. Dr. Anuar Ayazbekov who has recently joined the GSPP is working on the research project "Central Asia in the New Silk Road Age". The research examines

the effect the external geopolitical and geoeconomic strategies over the change in foreign policy orientations of the Central Asian states and overall regional dynamics.

I have been involved jointly with Dr. Elena Maltseva from the University of Windsor (Canada) in the research project on pension re-reform in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Poland and Russia funded by the International Labour Organisation: we are responsible for Kazakhstani case. In our joint paper (submitted to the journal) we discuss the dynamics and outcomes of the 1998 and 2013 pension reforms in Kazakhstan and analyze applicability of fully privatized and fully "nationalized" pension systems in the context of a transitional country such as Kazakhstan.

**RT:**We know that you have been engaged in the activities with British Council. Tell us more about this interaction.

**SJ:**Graduate School of Public Policy won a grant from the Newton–Al-Farabi Partnership Programme, a new bilateral U.K.-Kazakhstan programme coordinated by Kazakhstan's Science Fund and the British Council. This grant permitted us to conduct a three-day workshop "The Learning in Governance and Innovations in Public Services" in Astana in February in partnership with the Universities of Exeter and Edinburgh from the United Kingdom.

The forum was aimed at early-career researchers in political science, public policy, management and international relations both from the U.K. and Kazakhstan.

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Riccardo Pelizzo giving a lecture on Anticorruption to the government officials

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It was led by a team of international public policy scholars: Dr. Claire Dunlop and Prof. Claudio Radaelli from the University of Exeter, Dr. Tony Kinder from the University of Edinburgh and Prof. Neil Collins and myself from Nazarbayev University. The symposium was quite a success - more than 56 researchers and practitioners, including 15 from the U.K. and 46 from Kazakhstan participated in it. I truly believe that this type of collaboration can give significant benefits for participants. The networking on the event gives the opportunity to find people with similar interest and apply for bigger grants afterward.

Another joint project with British Council that has been initiated by GSPP is the creation of the Professional Development and Community Engagement Center. This initiative is currently supervised by the Graduate School of Education. The Professional Development and Engagement strand of the Newton - Al-Farabi Partnership Programme aims to support the development of the research environment in Kazakhstan and enable optimal impact from research. Eight Centers based in Kazakhstani higher education institutions in dif-

ferent regions of the country have been established since 2015. Each centre acts as a regional hub, offering access to researchers from all institutions in the region they serve. Their activities will focus on skills training for researchers, technicians and research administrators and on engaging researchers with end users.

**RT:** You had a recent publication named "Innovating Public Service Delivery in Transitional Countries: The Case of One Stop Shops in Kazakhstan" co-authored with Prof Pan Suk Kim (Yonsei University). Can you please tell us more about the importance of this topic in Kazakhstan? Do you think your analysis and ideas will have further implementation in Kazakhstan in terms of inclusion to some GSPP recommendations to Kazakhstani officials?

**SJ:** This topic is one of the main areas of my research interests: my doctoral thesis was on public service integration. This research provides a critical analysis of the development of the Public Service Centers (TSON in Russian) which is aimed at reducing administrative corruption and improving the quality of public services. During 10 years of this policy implementation, by introducing a single-window approach when over 200 public services are provided at one location within strict time standards, Kazakhstan has managed to have visible progress in terms of making public service delivery more transparent, more accountable and more accessible for the citizens and businesses. Public service modernization poses many challenges for the government apparatus: it encourages civil servants to learn to work across professional and organizational boundaries; to change from the role of a traditional bureaucrat to the

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role of a service provider; to transform from a corrupt, closed, patronage-based system into a transparent, publicly accountable and democratic system. My next research project in this area with support of the Soros Foundation is to analyze the ability of the state corporation “Government for Citizens” to improve quality and reduce corruption in land and property registration, and pension services. The Government for Citizens is a new government initiative which has been established since 1 March 2016 by merging Public Service Centers, Property and Land Registration Centers, and State Center for Pension Payments. The result of public service modernization will have a significant impact on the government performance as a whole; legitimacy and trust of the citizens; and international reputa-

tion of the country.

As a researcher, I strongly believe that public policy research as well as research in many other areas should not be limited purely for academic purposes. The academic research needs to be linked with real life policy problems, nurture Kazakhstani Civil Service system and feed the policy makers with evidence-based policy research and recommendations.

**RT:** Thank you a lot for very interesting interview.

**SJ:** My pleasure. Thanks for allowing NU community to learn about research projects and initiatives of each NU School.



Provost Anne Lonsdale giving a welcoming speech at the OECD Senior Officials' Retreat, November 2015

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# RESEARCH NEWS

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## «Water Management and Environmental Impact Assessment in the Oil and Gas Industry» workshop in the School of Engineering

**Vasileios Inglezakis, Associate Professor at School of Engineering, organized “Water Management and Environmental Impact Assessment in the Oil and Gas Industry” workshop on March 14-17, 2016 at Nazarbayev University.**

The 4-day workshop brought together leading industrial and academic experts and early stage researchers. 52 participants attended the sessions – 17 from United Kingdom and 35 from Kazakhstan. Participants presented and discussed the state-of-the-art on water/wastewater treatment and environmental impact assessment in the oil and gas industry. Workshop included an ice-breaking session, keynote presentations, networking activities and presentations on funding opportunities and on career potential. It included presentations of industry specialists from Kazakhstan and the UK, visits to the research facilities in Nazarbayev University and cultural events.

This workshop helped to identify processes that can transform petroleum industry to a net producer of water, increasing the well-being of Kazakh. The main output was strengthening the career prospects of early stage researchers in order to promote economic development and welfare. The workshop also strengthened the links between re-



searchers and industrial specialists and developed strong links between the two universities. It placed the basis for the establishment of long term collaboration between UK and Kazakhstan. The oil and gas network consists of professionals, industrial actors and policy makers; this network will continue to operate and grow.

The main outcomes of workshop were:

*Research focused day:*

- Presentations covering a wide range of topics
- Update ourselves on state-of-the art aspects
- Research network: synergistic activities between young and senior researchers

*Industry focused day:*

- Presentation of real case studies
- State-of-the-art in the oil and gas sector

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- Interactive/innovation workshop: Synergy/links between academics and industrial actors.

*Strong international network that:*

- Has strong voice to improve dialogue between scientists and practitioners
- Promotes research & development and feasible innovation
- Addresses real industrial needs
- Allows accessibility of scientific knowledge to industrial actors and policy makers
- Has a plan to remain active (funding opportunities).

A decisive factor concerning the workshop's success was the complementary

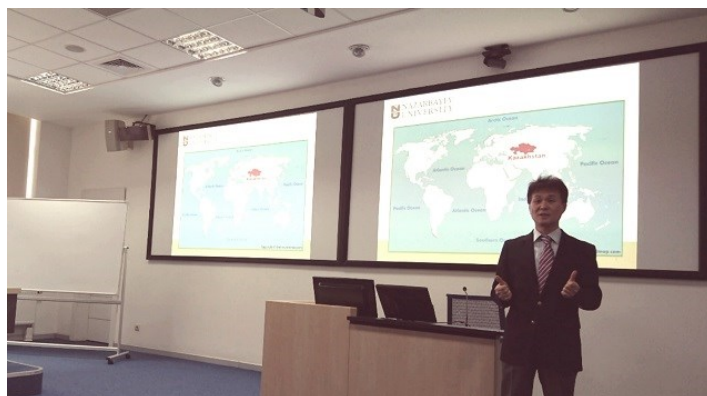
skills of the people who participated in the workshop from both the UK and Kazakhstan side. From the selection stage emphasis was placed on the development of a group having strong and complementary expertise and skills in the field of water resources management and on environmental impact assessment in the oil and gas sector. The selection stage was invaluable experiences for organizers at Chemical Engineering Department in order to develop an active group that will be able contribute in the most efficient way in the implementation of a successful workshop.

To see pictures from the event, please [click here](#).

The Workshop Agenda can be viewed by clicking on [this link](#).

# «Resilient Structures and Infrastructure» workshop in the School of Engineering

**Dichuan Zhang, Assistant Professor at School of Engineering, together with his research partner, Katherine Cashell, Lecture at Brunel University London, organized an UK-Kazakhstan jointed workshop “Resilient Structures and Infrastructure” on March 14-17, 2016 at Nazarbayev University.**



The workshop was organized in parallel with another Workshop on “Water Management and Environmental Impact Assessment in the Oil and Gas Industry”.

The workshop sponsored by the British Council Newton-Al Farabi Partnership Programme aims to bring leading, established and early-stage researchers from the UK and Kazakhstan to discuss the most pertinent issues facing structures under extreme hazards and identify and prioritise areas requiring future research.

47 participants attended the sessions – 17 from United Kingdom and 20 from Kazakhstan. The workshop started with a welcome session. This session introduced the initiative and purpose of the workshop as well as research needs, challenges and funding opportunities by keynote speakers from local industry and Kazakhstan government agency. Follow upon the opening session, participants presented their research interests and expertise in mini-presentation sessions. After the presentation sessions, round table discussion sessions were hold among all the participants for future research collaborations and opportunities.

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As results of the workshop, several research areas which are relevant to the Kazakhstan have been identified for future research collaborations including: (1) structural performance under extreme hazards such as earthquakes and

fires; (2) structural performance under extreme weather conditions; (3) risk, uncertainty and optimization; (4) soil remediation; (5) governance and policy gap on disaster risk reduction; and (6) future cities.

To view the workshop's Agenda, please [click here](#).

# Discovery Days— ThermoFischer Scientific in Nazarbayev University

Nazarbayev University organized a series of presentations with invited guests from ThermoFischer Scientific on March 2-3, 2016.

**ThermoFisher Scientific** company, strategic partner for equipping academic and research laboratories of AOE “Nazarbayev University”, on March 2nd and 3rd 2016 hold a series of presentations regarding wide variety of academic and scientific equipment and consumables they offer for laboratories of biology and chemistry, and presented some interesting science topics. They also held meetings with professors, researchers and administrative staff of Schools and Research Centers for detailed discussions on procurement. In addition, there was a special series of meeting held with Nazarbayev University Research and Innovation System and National Laboratory Astana distributors to discuss ongoing operational issues.

## REFERENCE:

**ThermoFisher Scientific** is the world leader in serving science, with revenues of \$17 billion and approximately 50,000

# ThermoFisher SCIENTIFIC



employees in 50 countries. Company helps customers accelerate life sciences research, solve complex analytical challenges, improve patient diagnostics and increase laboratory productivity. Through premier brands – Thermo Scientific, Applied Biosystems, Invitrogen, Fisher Scientific and Unity Lab Services – ThermoFisher Scientific offers an unmatched combination of innovative technologies, purchasing convenience and comprehensive support.





# Workshop at GSE: Proposal Writing and Finding Funding for Research Projects

**The Professional Development and Engagement Centre at NU Graduate School of Education, together with the British Council, organized a workshop “Proposal Writing and Finding Funding for Research Projects” for researchers residing in Astana and Akmola Region on March 16, 2016.**



On the 16 March 2015 the Professional Development and Engagement Centre at the Nazarbayev University Graduate School of Education held its first workshop on “Proposal Writing and Finding Funding for Research Projects” as part of the Newton – Al-Farabi Partnership Programme. The Workshop was facilitated by Professor Peter Charles Quantick, who is an EC Expert with 25 years of experience in evaluating and reviewing Directorate General for Research and Innovation Projects and expert panelist and chair for a range of EC reviews, impact assessments and ExPost evaluations. With 20 participants, the Workshop was arranged specifically for researchers based in Astana and the Akmola Region. The trainer and participants discussed issues related to proposal writing such as planning the proposal; key bid features; using evaluation criteria in writing the bid; funding schemes; topic areas; top-down vs bottom up programmes; an overview of the major funding sources available.

Nazarbayev University Graduate School of Education has won funding from the British Council through the Newton – Al-Farabi Partnership Programme to establish a Professional Development and Engagement Centre for Astana and the Akmola Region. The Centre will design and deliver courses to develop skills of Kazakhstan-based researchers, including training in ethical conduct of research, as well as strategies for international research collaboration and publication; provide a platform for dissemination of research findings; and coordinate the development and operation of a network of university-based institutional research centers.



# Research Tab

**We are pleased to announce that now you may find all NU research-related information in the Research tab at <http://my.nu.edu.kz>**

In the Research tab, we share information on

- Research Council and its Committees (Allocations, Biosafety, IACUC, IP, IREC, LREC, and RSAC);
- All funding schemes and projects currently available for the NU community;
- SciVal and Pure;

- All issues of the Research Newsletter;
- Upcoming research-related events;
- Frequently asked questions.

To find out more, please use your User ID to login to the <http://my.nu.edu.kz> website.

Please note that it is a pilot version of the Research tab. If you spot anything that you believe needs to be changed, please contact Aiman Temirova ([aiman.temirova@nu.edu.kz](mailto:aiman.temirova@nu.edu.kz)).

The screenshot shows the website for the Research Services Office at Nazarbayev University. The browser address bar displays [http://my.nu.edu.kz/wps/myportal/home/homeinfo/ut/p/b1/04\\_Sj](http://my.nu.edu.kz/wps/myportal/home/homeinfo/ut/p/b1/04_Sj). The navigation menu includes: ACADEMICS, HR AND FINANCIAL, ISSD, SERVICES, RESEARCH (selected), and PROFILE. A dropdown menu under RESEARCH lists: About the Research Services Office, Council and Committees, Funding Schemes and Projects, SciVal and Pure, Newsletter, Events, and FAQ. The main content area features a large image of the university building, a 'WELCOME TO THE INTER UNIVERSITY' message, and a list of services: About the Research Services Office, Council and Committees, Funding Schemes and Projects, SciVal and Pure, Newsletter, Events, and FAQ. A note at the bottom states: 'Note: Currently the portal is under development and we appreciate your active input. If you wish to have any new section added, please follow [these instructions](#) and we will initiate its development.'

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# GRANTS & COMPETITIONS

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## Between Europe and the Orient - A Focus on Research and Higher Education in/on Central Asia and the Caucasus

**By this funding initiative the Volkswagen Foundation aims to strengthen research on current developments in Central Asia and the Caucasus and – especially by promoting young researchers – to provide a sustainable contribution towards capacity building in the countries of the region.**

The Foundation provides support for a number of measures which may be applied for irrespective of the deadlines for thematic calls. These possibilities include:

- **Training and qualification measures for young researchers:** Within this context, funding may be provided for special programs dedicated to the training and further education of young researchers, like, for example, summer schools and smaller scholarship groups that offer young researchers from countries in the target region – both in the areas of the natural and engineering sciences as well as the humanities and social sciences – the opportunity to carry out PhD projects in close cooperation with researchers from Germany.
- **Funding can be made available for:** Personnel and travelling expenses, as well as other running costs and costs of equipment and literature, as a rule over a three year period; re-



searchers from the target region may be directly involved in project work by means of scholarships or salary supplements.

- **Projects aimed at the re-integration of returning researchers:** This funding offer is aimed at highly qualified young researchers from Central Asia and the Caucasus who have received an education abroad and now seek to join an academic institution in their home country. The material support offered by the Foundation is to enable them to make use of the knowledge and skills they acquired in innovative projects in the fields of research or academic teaching.
- **Funding can be made available for:** "Topping up" their salary, costs of travel and infrastructure (equipment, literature), as well as the funding of research associates, doctoral students or support staff (to possibly include the creation of junior research groups).

**For more information, please visit the [Volkswagen Foundation website](#), and see [the Funding Scheme Flyer](#).**

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# Research Project Grants

**Offering up to £500,000 over five years for research on a topic of the applicant's choice. Grants cover salary and research costs directly associated with the project. Submit a first-stage outline application at any time.**

The aim of these awards is to provide financial support for innovative and original research projects of high quality and potential, the choice of theme and the design of the research lying entirely with the applicant (the Principal Investigator). The grants provide support for the salaries of research staff engaged on the project, plus associated costs directly related to the research proposed, and the award is paid directly to the institution at which the applicant is employed.

Proposals must reflect the personal vision of the applicant and demonstrate compelling competence in the research design. The Trust favours applications that surmount traditional disciplinary academic boundaries and involve a willingness to take appropriate degrees of risk in setting research objectives.

## VALUE AND DURATION

Research Project Grants may be held for up to five years. The maximum grant value is £500,000. The funds requested should be appropriate for the grant duration and the resources required to realise the project's objectives.

## ELIGIBLE RESEARCH AREAS

The following guidelines are drawn to the attention of potential applicants:

- Both because of the substantial funding available from other sources for applied medical research, and the



Trust's priority to support investigations of a fundamental nature, we do not fund studies of disease, illness and disabilities in humans and animals, or research that is intended to inform clinical practice or the development of medical applications.

- Similarly, because of the availability of alternative sources of funding, the Trust does not fund policy-driven research where the principal objective is to assemble an evidence base for immediate policy initiatives.
- The Trust will not fund applications for research of which advocacy forms an explicit component.
- The Trust does not support research which is aimed principally at an immediate commercial application.
- The Trust will not fund applications in which the balance between assembling a data bank or database and the related subsequent research is heavily inclined to the former.
- The Trust does not fund applications in which the main focus is on capacity building, networking, or the development of the skills of those involved.

Eligibility, costs and application procedure  
Please read the following before submitting an application.

[Eligibility](#)  
[Costs](#)

[Application procedure](#)

To see more detailed information, please [click here.](#)

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# INSEAD Syngenta Endowed Scholarships for Emerging Country Leadership

Two scholarships will be awarded per class and candidates for this scholarship will need to demonstrate: (a) outstanding academic achievement and promise (b) aptitude for business and financial management (c) leadership potential and (d) a commitment to contributing to their country or region at some point in the future.

# INSEAD

The Business School  
for the World®

## ELIGIBILITY:

Candidates must be a national of an emerging economy and have spent a substantial part of their lives in the developing world, in education and/or professional experience. Experience in industry will be considered a plus. Preference will be given to candidates who require proven financial assistance.

## ESSAY TOPIC:

1. Briefly discuss the requirements for successful business leadership in your country today. Describe how you envisage contributing to the future development of your country after graduation and why you should be considered for this award. (200 words)
2. Briefly discuss measures required for sustainable agriculture in your country/region in the context of urban and rural development. Focus on what you consider to be the most important element
3. Provide a concise but accurate description of your financial circumstances as well as a cash flow fore-

cast for the year at INSEAD (details of income set against expenditures) (150-200 words)

## AMOUNT OF AWARD:

€22,500

## APPLICATION FORMAT:

Complete online application and submit with essays.

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

### DEADLINE:

#### July 2017 Class:

##### Round 1:

Applications Open: 26 October 2015

Deadline: 9 November 2015

##### Round 2:

Applications Open: 16 November 2015

Deadline: 30 November 2015

#### December 17 Class:

##### Round 1:

Applications Open: 4 April 2016

Deadline: 19 April 2016

##### Round 2:

Applications Open: 23 May 2016

Deadline: 6 June 2016

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

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## New Funding Opportunities

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 issue of the Research Newsletter. The information on them can be found in the 2nd Sheet of the Excel document.

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



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## USEFUL INFORMATION

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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 March 1, 2015 – April 1, 2016*) on the published papers by our colleagues so you can keep track on NU research successes.

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



# Research Performance Evaluation using SciVal

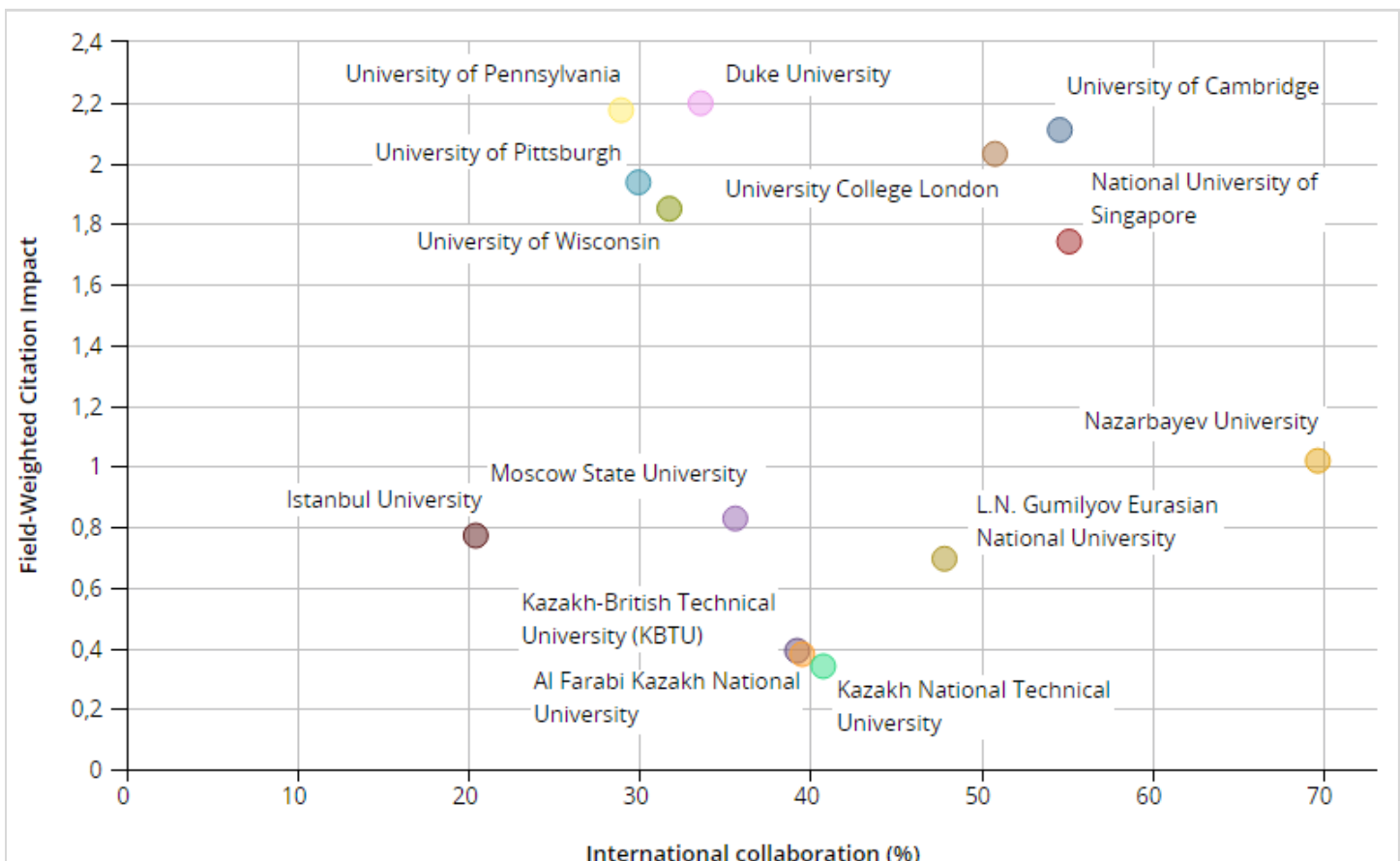
**In this month's issue, we are delighted to share an updated presentation on the research performance of Nazarbayev University using the SciVal research solution.**

Since its inception in 2011, Nazarbayev University faculty and researchers have released 636 peer-reviewed publications indexed by Scopus, and have been cited 1,372 times. The approximate number of citations per the peer-reviewed publication is 2.2. The 636 NU publications have already received 10,369 Scopus views.

In order to provide you with more comprehensive information on the NU's re-

search performance, we prepared [a presentation using the SciVal and 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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# CONGRATULATIONS!

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## To the Winners of British Council grants!

**On behalf of Nazarbayev University, we would like to congratulate NU faculty, researchers and staff on winning the British Council grants!**

Dr. Timur Saliev, Lead Scientist, Laboratory of Translational Medicine and Life Sciences, NLA, won a British Council travel grant to do post-doctoral research in the UK.

4 faculty members of the School of Engineering, 2 junior researchers from the National Laboratory Astana, and our colleague from the Research Services Office won the British Council Researcher Links travel grants to conduct research in the UK for 2-6 months:

1. Dr. Zhanay Sagintayev, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, School of Engineering;
2. Dr. Dichuan Zhang, Assistant Professor, School of Engineering;
3. Dr. Konstantinos Valagiannopoulos, Assistant Professor of Electromagnetics, School of Engineering;
4. Aliya Satayeva, Senior Research Fellow, School of Engineering;
5. Marzhan Sytabekova, Junior Researcher, Department of Biosensors and Bioinstrumentation, NLA;
6. Aliya Bekmurzayeva, Junior Researcher, Laboratory of Biosensors



and Bioinstrumentation, NLA;

7. Aiman Temirova, Manager, Research Services Office.

The Nazarbayev University faculty and researchers also won 4 British Council Researcher Links grants to organize joint workshops with UK institutions at NU:

1. Dr. Kanat Baigarin, Vice-President for Innovations and Research;
2. Dr. Zhanay Sagintayev, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, School of Engineering;
3. Dr. Aisi Li, Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Education;
4. Dr. Zhanna Kapsalyamova, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

In total, 12 out of 30 grants awarded by the British Council in Kazakhstan this year went to Nazarbayev University. It is a great achievement of the NU research community. We wish all the best to our colleagues with their future research projects!



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## NU School of Medicine offers new degree— Master of Public Health

**Nazarbayev University School of Medicine (NUSOM) is pleased to announce the opening of its new Master of Public Health (MPH) program.**



The new Master of Public Health program is an EXCELLENT career choice NOT only for biology graduates and physicians, BUT also for graduates in business, sociology, anthropology, public policy, sciences, law, mathematics, engineering and other fields. If you seek a career that provides you purpose in life, public health is your choice.

Please read information about entry requirements, application package and deadline in [MPH flyer](#).

If you have additional questions please contact Dr. Byron Crape at [byron.crape@nu.edu.kz](mailto:byron.crape@nu.edu.kz) (office phone 8 7172 69-46-38) or Laura Paluanova at [laura.paluanova@nu.edu.kz](mailto:laura.paluanova@nu.edu.kz) (office phone 8 7172 69-46-32).

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## Horizon 2020 Seminar at NU

**Nazarbayev University together with the European Commission plan to organize a workshop “Horizon 2020: the EU Framework Program for Research and Innovation” in April 2016 (precise date and venue TBD).**

The seminar will be held in an interactive format. The invited guests of the event will be the European Commission delegates based in Astana and Moscow.

The seminar will consist of two parts. The morning sessions will focus on providing general information on the Horizon 2020 funding scheme and its current opportunities. The afternoon sessions will focus on specific research areas.

**If you have a research proposal that you wish to submit for a Horizon 2020 grant, please send it to Aiman Temirova (email address: [aiman.temirova@nu.edu.kz](mailto:aiman.temirova@nu.edu.kz)).**



Based on the research areas of the received proposals, we will form groups for the afternoon sessions. The groups will have an opportunity to consult with and receive feedback on their proposals from the European Commission representatives.

The workshop agenda [can be seen here](#).

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

# NU Green Campus Competition

Call for Applications. Deadline: 15/04/2016

Nazarbayev University is announcing competition for the **best Nazarbayev University Green Campus concept.**

Nazarbayev University management shares the concerns of other world universities about the unprecedented scale and speed of environmental pollution and degradation, and the depletion of natural resources. Environmental changes are caused by inequitable and unsustainable production and consumption patterns that aggravate poverty in many regions of the world.

Urgent actions are needed to address these fundamental problems, improve the situation and adopt policies and practices in the University for creating an equitable and sustainable future for

humankind to coexist in harmony with nature.

Nazarbayev University Green Campus concept should present a conceptual idea for introducing, implementing and achieving a sustainable university campus.

Students and employees of all structural units of Nazarbayev University are welcome to participate in this Competition.

In order to participate in the Competition you need to send your Nazarbayev University Green Campus project to [green.campus@nu.edu.kz](mailto:green.campus@nu.edu.kz) between January 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 15, 2016.

Know more – [guidance for contestants](#)



Do you have concerns about your **life quality** on Campus?

Share your own view of **Sustainable Campus!**

The owners of the best ideas will get a **chance to travel** to UC Berkeley for experience exchange!

# NU Green Campus COMPETITION



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# Field Trip to Solid Waste Treatment Plant

Have you ever thought where the huge amount of daily waste is gone?

Can you imagine that many useful things you utilize every day are made of waste?

Don't trust? Let us convince you!

**NU AICHE SC** is glad to announce the upcoming **field trip** to **Astana Solid Waste Treatment Plant** of "Altyn-TET LLP". Do not miss the great opportunity to observe how waste is sorted and transformed into goods such as plastic bottles, polyethylene granules, films, packages and wadding. The recently built plant is

an excellent example of the innovative future of the country since it operates using latest technologies in the waste processing.

**The bus will be provided.** The exact date and time will be announced later after final confirmation.

If you are interested, please, [register here](#) by mentioning your full name, major and year of study.



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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](#).

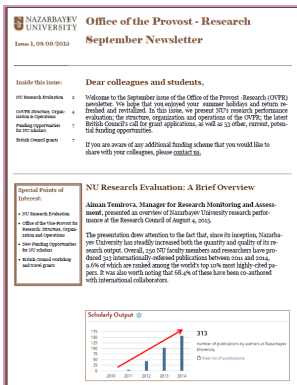
We look forward to seeing you in Astana!

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

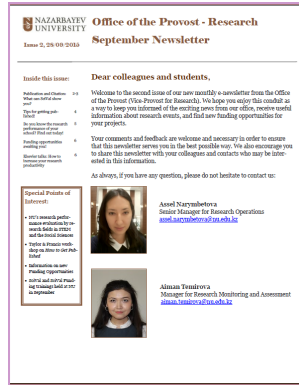
*Chairman, Local Chair and Co-Chairs*

# 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

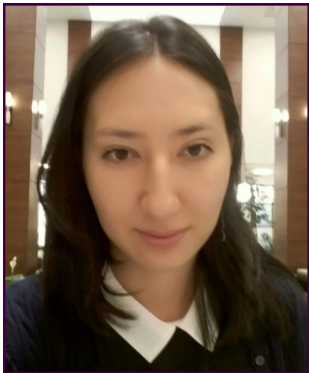
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# YOUR FEEDBACK IS VALUABLE TO US

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Your comments and feedback are welcome and necessary in order to ensure that this newsletter serves you in the best possible way. We also encourage you to share this newsletter with your colleagues and contacts who may be interested in this information.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us:



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