

**PROVISIONS**  
**of the Yessenov Data Lab Program**  
**SHAKHMARDAN YESSENOV FOUNDATION**

**I. General terms.**

- 1.1 **The Yessenov Data Lab Program** (hereinafter referred to as “the Program”) is a 4-week intensive training for Kazakhstani young scientists/professionals in basic Big Data analysis skills to apply knowledge to further work.
- 1.2. The program is funded by the initiative of the private “The Shakhmardan Yessenov Science & Education Foundation” (hereinafter referred to as “the Foundation”).
- 1.3. The Program is aimed to develop the skills of young scientists to work with Big Data which will encourage them to independently develop in this field.
- 1.4. In these Provisions, the term “sponsorship” implies the funding for training, including payment of fees for lecturers, technical and administrative costs.
- 1.5. Participation in the Program is free of charge for the winners. **20 (twenty) Program winners are selected from among the Program contestants annually.**
- 1.6. The winners of the Program are determined in an open contest. The contest is held once a year.
- 1.7. **The program involves training in Big Data skills for 4 (four) weeks from June 17 to July 13, 2024, at the Yessenov Data Lab Foundation Summer School. This includes 3 (three) weeks online - from June 17 to July 5, 2024, and 1 (one) week offline - from July 8 through July 13, 2024, in Almaty.** Language of instruction is Russian, with possible use of elements of technical English.

**II. Requirements for the Program participants.**

- 2.1. Only citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan who are over 18 (eighteen) years of age, undergraduate students, master’s students, doctoral students and working professionals in the following areas\* can participate in the Program:
- natural sciences, mathematics and statistics;
  - information and communication technologies;
  - engineering, manufacturing and construction industries;
  - healthcare.

\* according to the Classifier of Training Programs for Personnel with Higher and Post-Graduate Education (Approved by the Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan as of October 13, 2018, No. 569).

- 2.2. The following qualities of applicants will be taken into consideration when determining the winner of the Program:
- 2.2.1. high intellectual potential;
  - 2.2.2. willingness to develop professional skills;
  - 2.2.3. focusing on results;
  - 2.2.4. adaptability.
- 2.3. The applicants are to declare and document their active professional, scientific, social activities and compliance of professional skills with the following requirements:
- 2.3.1. strong analytical skills;
  - 2.3.2. interest and willingness to engage in scientific activities and/or develop IT technologies in Kazakhstan;
  - 2.3.3. basic knowledge of statistics and linear algebra;
  - 2.3.4. basic knowledge of programming (in any programming language).
- 2.4. The applicant must have a personal laptop with characteristics sufficient for comfortable programming. Recommended parameters:
- 2.4.1. CPU Intel Core Gen 7 and higher, Mac Silicon M1 and higher.
  - 2.4.2. RAM 6 GB and higher.

2.5. To have a stable Internet connection with a recommended speed of 20 Mbps, but not less than 10 Mbps, or higher.

**2.6 The following will be an advantage:**

2.6.1 interest in science;

2.6.2 own scientific papers, materials, results of any research, etc.;

2.6.3 B1 or higher proficiency in English.

**III. Stages of competitive selection process of the Program.**

3.1. The contest implies 3 (three) selection stages, at the end of each of which the best applicants are selected. The announcement about the opening of the contest is published on the Foundation's website: **yessenovfoundation.org** and on the Foundation's social media.

3.2. To hold the contest, the Foundation creates an Expert Council, which selects participants according to the results of 3 (three) rounds of the Program contest, as described below.

3.3. The decision of the Expert Council of Trustees is approved by the Foundation's order which contains officially certified list of Program winners. The results of the rounds and the list of winners of the Competition are published on the Foundation's website: **yessenovfoundation.org**.

3.4. **The first round** is acceptance and selection of applications.

3.4.1. Applications are accepted on the Foundation's website: **yessenovfoundation.org**, from **March 14 through April 17, 2024**.

The deadline for acceptance of applications is April 17, 2024, 3:00 P.M. Astana time (GMT+5). Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

**The Applicant must attach to the application:**

Mandatory documents:

1. Copy of ID;

2. A copy of the transcript (all semesters) or undergraduate diploma with grades (for undergraduates and professionals);

3. An essay on the topic "I want to learn how to analyze data so that..." (at least 7 sentences and no more than 750 words);

4. CV

Additional documents:

5. A portfolio demonstrating the candidate's achievements in scientific research and/or evident interest in a particular scientific area, with the relevant confirmation:

6. completion of the course - no more than 2 (two) certificates\*;

7. publications – no more than 2 (two) publications\*;

8. certificates in science – no more than 2 (two) certificates\*;

9. own scientific papers, materials, results of any research;

10. Certificate confirming English language proficiency (if available).

*\*The Foundation considers a limited number of certificates. The candidate must independently select the certificates that best represent personal achievements.*

3.4.2. An application and all the documents must be submitted by filling out an online application form on the Foundation's website: **yessenovfoundation.org**.

3.4.3. An application and essay can be submitted in the Kazakh or Russian languages. Documents (certificates, diplomas, recommendations, etc.) can be provided in their original languages (Kazakh or Russian, or English).

3.4.4. Submission documents to the contest means that the applicant shares the goals of the Program and agrees with all the terms of the contest set out in these Provisions and is ready to fully comply with them.

3.4.5. All the applications received on time are reviewed and assessed by the Foundation employees and independent experts **from April 18 through May 3, 2024**.

3.4.6. Lists of the applicants who advanced **to the second round** are published on the Foundation's website: **yessenovfoundation.org**. Upon completion of the first round of the contest, no more than 60 (sixty) candidates are selected.

3.5. **The second round** is testing.

3.5.1. The second round is held **from May 6 through May 10, 2024**.

3.5.1. The Maths and Logic test. The test consists of 30 (thirty) questions and lasts 60 minutes. It is held online;

3.5.2. Data analysis exam. The exam is a regression problem.

3.5.3. For a successful passing the test, the candidate must have basic knowledge of the following topics:

- 1) matrices, linear equations;
- 2) graphs (mathematics);
- 3) linear regression, means, medians;
- 4) graphing functions;
- 5) variables, loops, conditions, arrays (in any programming language);
- 6) basic knowledge of statistics and probability theory - probability distributions, random variable, math. expectation, covariance, normal distribution.

3.5.4. Lists of the applicants who advanced to the third round are published on the Foundation's website. Upon completion of the second round, no more than 40 (forty) candidates are selected.

3.6. **The third round** is an interview.

3.6.1. The third round is held from May 13 through May 23, 2024.

3.6.2. Participants of the third round are invited to an online interview with the Foundation's Expert Council. During the interview process independent experts evaluate:

- a) analytical skills;
- b) competencies of candidates;
- c) programming skills and experience (if there are any);
- d) high intellectual potential;
- e) striving for continuous professional development;
- f) other

3.6.3. In the course of the interview, the quality of the contest applicants will also be assessed through observation of the following areas:

- a. general communication;
- b. system of values and attitudes, motivation;
- c. general activity;
- d. emotional intellect;
- e. understanding the demands of the modern world;
- f. psychological maturity;
- g. thinking;
- h. the applicants' willingness to make motivational posts for social media.

3.6.4. Duration of the interview is up to 40 (forty) minutes. Upon completion of the third round of the contest, 20 (twenty) winners are selected.

3.6.5. The Foundation reserves the right not to comment on its decisions to the participants of the Contest.

3.6.6. The Foundation makes a final decision **until May 24, 2024**. The list of the contest winners is published on the Foundation's website: **yessenovfoundation.org**.

#### **IV. Sponsorship Procedure.**

4.1. 20 (twenty) winners from among the best participants of the Program's contest get sponsorship. The number of the Program winners may be increased or decreased depending on the quantity and quality of the applications received and the decision of the Foundation's Expert Council.

4.2. Through a competitive selection process of the Program, the winners undergo free 4-week training at the Summer school of the Yessenov Data Lab Foundation (hereinafter referred to as "the School") **from June 17 through July 13, 2024, including 3 (three) weeks online - from June 17 through July 05, 2024, and 1 (one) week offline - from July 08 through July 13, 2024, in Almaty. The Foundation covers travel and accommodation costs for those winners who come to Almaty from other regions. The Foundation provides meals for all the School participants during the offline training.**

4.4. Before commencement of the training at the School, the Foundation and the winner of the Program sign a sponsorship agreement (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement").

4.5. The winner of the Program who has received a training grant is obliged to comply with the terms of the Sponsorship Agreement with the Foundation, including, but not limited to:

- 1) attend the School classes according to the schedule and not to miss classes without good reason;

- 2) perform all the challenging tasks, including tasks for independent work as part of the training at the School;
- 3) take their exams at the School timely;
- 4) comply with other obligations and rules of the School;
- 5) disseminate information about the Foundation in any acceptable form, including publications on social media, ensuring a positive reputation of the Foundation, as well as distribute information and advertising materials provided by the Foundation;
- 6) bring information to the Foundation about personal achievements in professional activity and soft skills;
- 7) participate in filming, information sessions and other communication activities as and when requested by the Foundation. These photos and videos can be used in future in social media and publications of the Foundation;
- 8) provide information as and when requested by the Foundation no later than 3 (three) business days from the date of receipt of the request by email specified in the application;
- 9) as and when requested by the Foundation, provide assistance in its activities and programs of the Foundation;
- 10) as and when requested by the Foundation, provide personal photos, textual materials and videos (from the place of study/work/internship/social events, etc.) **(the appearance and clothing of people in the photos and videos must be neat and secular)**, as well as participate in photo and video sessions during the Foundation events, in order to create success stories on the Foundation's information resources and other publications which can motivate the youth of Kazakhstan;
- 11) in performing the obligations under the Agreement, the winner of the Program and employees of the Foundation refrain from committing, inducing to commit actions that violate or contribute to the violation of the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, including in the field of combating corruption, do not pay, do not offer to pay and do not authorize disbursement of any money or valuables, directly or indirectly, to any persons, in order to influence the actions or decisions of such persons to obtain any improper advantage or achieve any other improper purpose.

**4.6. For all questions regarding the Program and (or) the Provisions, please contact the authorized representatives of the Foundation:**

- **Grigoriy Lee:** grigoriy.l@yessenovfoundation.org, phone number: +7 705 888 5788;
- **Irina Grishchenko:** irina.g@yessenovfoundation.org, phone number: +7 771 775 1815.

4.7. The Foundation reserves the right to verify by any legal means the information provided by applicants and/or winners of the Program and to exclude any applicant from the competitive selection of the Program (at any stage) and/or the Program if the information does not correspond to reality.

4.8. The Foundation reserves the right not to provide explanations on the motives and reasons of the decisions regarding applicants for the Program grants.