**Provisions of the Program of Research Internships in World Laboratories in 2019**

**1. General Provisions**

1. The research internship program initiated by the Shakhmardan Yessenov Science and Education Foundation (hereinafter referred to as the Foundation) for students who wish to pursue a doctoral degree in world universities (hereinafter the Program), aims to identify, select, and support talented Kazakhstani students interested in science on a long-term basis.
2. Henceforth, the term Grant means a monetary payment of no more than 7 000 USD, paid in Kazakhstani tenge at the rate on the day of the payment, provided on a gratuitous basis to each Grantee of this Program, in order to undertake a research internship in a research laboratory of the world;
3. In our understanding, a Ph.D. is a must for talented individuals to enable them to pursue scientific and research activities successfully. As such, initiating and rendering the present Program meets the Foundation’s goal to form and enhance the national pool of talented scientists;
4. The Program is organized and financed by the Foundation;
5. This Program offers the opportunity to 17 (seventeen) top students, shortlisted in the course of a two-stage competitive selection, to earn a grant for a research internship in laboratories around the world in the summer of 2019;
6. The Program is open to citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan, active research associates (master’s degree or below ), undergraduate students, 1-2 year master’s students, majoring in engineering and natural sciences, and enrolled at a university in Kazakhstan;
7. 17 (seventeen) grants are distributed as follows:
8. 10 (ten) grants are allocated to 2-3 year undergraduate students, that meet the requirements described in this provision;
9. 7 (seven) grants are allocated to final year undergraduate students, master’s students, and active research associates, that meet the requirements described in this provision;

**2. Implementation Stages of the Program:**

1. The Program is long-term and realized in several stages;
2. Stage I: Competitive selection of the Program participants. At this stage, we will select the best students who demonstrate:
	1. excellent knowledge in main subjects,
	2. a sound interest in further scientific activity,
	3. achievements in scientific activities (Olympiads, conferences, researches),
	4. a sufficient command of English;
3. Stage II: the preparatory stage and internship enrollment. At this stage, the participants who have successfully passed the competitive selection stage, start the preparatory and enrollment process for their future internships:
	1. They research several potentially suitable programs;
	2. They compile the necessary set of documents (i.e., essays, referral and recommendation letters, translations of their scientific works, etc.);
	3. They initiate, and subsequently maintain contact (correspondence) with professors;
	4. They await results from potential research laboratories;

Throughout this stage, the Program’s team of consultants will provide assistance and support to Program participants (please, see Article 5 of the present Provisions).

**3. Competitive Selection of Program Participants:**

**3.1 Requirements for the participants:**

* + 1. Eligibility: (1) active research associates (master’s degree or below ), undergraduate students, 1-2 year master students, (2) majoring in engineering and natural sciences, (3) enrolled at a university in Kazakhstan, and (4) citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
		2. Competitors must succeed on all main subjects with “excellent" and "good" grades. Grades must be confirmed by the original and copy of the student’s record book; and a recommendation letter from the President or Vice President of the student’s academic institution;
		3. Competitors must have achievements in various Olympiads and high school scientific projects as well as a high average score on their secondary education diploma. All provided information must be supported by the original diplomas and certificates, as well as their copies;
		4. Competitors must have a good command of the English language, that is, at least an intermediate level and above. In case a competitor cannot provide relevant certificates stating his/her language level, he/she will be given the opportunity to take relevant tests;
		5. Competitors must demonstrate strong interest in specific fields of science and provide relevant evidence to the Foundation, for example, his/her scientific articles, materials, results of any conducted research, etc.;
		6. Moreover, Competitors have to show an interest in pursuing a PhD and aspire to a career in science in the long-term. With respect to this, the Competitors will have to write an essay describing the motivation behind this choice.

3.2 Grantees of the 2018 Program are not eligible to apply for the 2019 Program.

**3.3 The competition procedure:**

Competition is held in two stages:

1) Submitting Applications

- Students submit filled out Applications to the Foundation until **December 9th 2018 at 11:59pm.**

The following documents must be provided:

1. A copy of student’s national ID;
2. A copy of student’s grades record (with all the examination periods);
3. A copy of an undergraduate degree transcript (all semesters) and diploma with grades (for master’s students and active research associates);
4. Copies of diplomas, certificates, scientific projects, etc.;
5. An essay on the following topic: “My internship: my accomplishments and future plans in science ”;
6. A recommendation from his/her Research Advisor/University Chancellor or Vice-Chancellor;
7. CV.

- The application and all the required documents must be sent to the Foundation’s email: info@yessenovfoundation.org

- At this stage, the selection is based on the student’s level of academic progress, the completeness of his/her application, his/her achievements record, the interest level and reasoning for his/her continuous interest and aspiration for a career in science.

- Applications are reviewed until **December 26th 2018**.

2) Interview/Training selection:

- Students who submitted their applications by the deadline and successfully passed the first stage of the selection process will be invited for trainings/interviews;

- The interviews and the trainings are designed to uncover applicants’ personal qualities;

- Interviews/trainings will take place on **11-19 January 2019**.

3.4 **Candidates who successfully pass the entire competitive selection become the official Program participants and move to the Preparatory stage.**

**4. Preparatory Stage and Enrollment**

4.1. The Program participants who have successfully passed the Competitive selection have the opportunity to work with the Foundation’s trainers and consultants to acquire necessary information and recommendations to successfully enroll in a study placement program at a laboratory;

4.2. Consultants of the Foundation conduct master classes and training sessions on the following topics:

1. Joint research and selection of appropriate study placement programs;
2. Compilation and submission of relevant documentation;
3. Correspondence with professors of universities and laboratories;
4. General trainings on the enhancement of leadership skills, stress resistance and communication skills;

4.3. During this process, Program participants actively send out internship request and relevant documentation to laboratories around the world;

4.4. At the end of the enrollment stage, by the established deadline, Program participants have to report on the results of their internship research.

**5. the Program Consulting team**

5.1. The Program’s consulting team consists of members of an initiative group, young scientists from Kazakhstan, working or currently studying in the USA or around the world;

5.2. Duties of the consultants:

- Timely provision of master classes for Program participants;

- Carrying out at least 5 (five) consultations for each Program participant;

- Whenever possible, assistance and involvement in the participants’ internship application process;

- Consultants solely provide advisory support, in no instance do they fill out application forms, neither do they write essays for the Program participants, nor do they take any other actions which could directly or indirectly influence a Program participant’s internship quotas;

5.3. Consultants provide their support gratuitously, on their own initiative, in order to develop the scientific potential of the nation’s youth;

5.4. The Foundation reserves the right, both on a paid and gratuitous basis, to engage trainers and psychologists for this Program, in order to conduct appropriate trainings and develop additional skills and knowledge for the Program participants.

**6. Competitive Selection of the Program Grantees**

6.1. Program participants with an existing internship offer from a laboratory are automatically accepted into the final stage of the competitive selection;

6.2. Grants will be provided to the 17 (seventeen) strongest candidates who, in the course of the selection, prove themselves as the most effective, determined, and motivated students;

6.3. The decision on Grant provision will be made collectively (the Contest Committee) by the designated representatives of the Foundation, representatives of the Program’s consulting team, trainers and experts;

6.4. The competition’s winners list, approved by the Foundation’s Founder and agreed upon by the Contest Committee and the Board of Trustees, is published on the Foundation’s website;

6.5. The Foundation has the right to refuse Grant provision without disclosing reasons for the refusal.

6.6. **The Foundation has the right to redistribute designated Grants between undergraduate and graduate students, depending on the quality of the received applications.**

1. **sponsorship PROVISION**

7.1. Financial sponsorship is provided to the winners of the competition through a Grant Agreement;

7.2. These funds cover the Program participants’ travel and living expenses (accommodation and meals) for the entire duration of their research internships in laboratories;

7.3. The sponsorship can be paid to the Grantee through money transfer to his/her bank account;

7.4. The Grantee who has signed a Gant Agreement has to comply with the following terms and conditions of the Agreement:

1) Undertake the research internship in the prescribed form, in compliance with host laboratory’s established rules;

2) Responsibly perform on all work assignments within the framework of this internship;

3) Continuously keep the Foundation informed on the results of the internship through the provision of relevant reports.

**Additional information to the Provisions:**

* 1. A PhD is a scientific degree awarded to graduates of doctoral study programs in the Western education system, and is an analogue to the local “Candidate of Sciences” degree. This degree has no practical relation to philosophy (only historical) and is awarded in almost all scientific areas, for example: Doctor of Philosophy in Literature or Doctor of Philosophy in Physics.
	2. This Program aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Providing students with the opportunity to undergo internships in the laboratories of world’s leading universities and Science Centers;

- Increase the level of training of domestic scientists by exposing them to qualitatively different study conditions at the world’s best research laboratories.