**PROVISIONS OF THE “GRANTS FOR PURSUING**

**A MASTER’S DEGREE IN ENGINEERING OR NATURAL SCIENCES” PROGRAM**

* + - 1. **General Provisions**

1. “Grants for pursuing a Master’s degree in engineering or natural sciences” program (hereinafter – the Program) of the Shakhmardan Yessenov Science and Education Foundation (hereinafter – the Foundation) is designed to support talented Kazakhstani students and young scientist with a life-long interest in science, in their pursuit of a Master’s degree in engineering or natural sciences at world’s top universities.
2. In these Provisions, the term “grant” indicates a monetary payment provided to each Grantee of this Program for the purpose of obtaining a Master’s degree in engineering or natural sciences at world’s top universities.
3. The Program’s objective is to provide talented Kazakhstani students and young scientists with a chance to expand their knowledge, obtain international experience in science, experience the usage of new technologies in research, build on their professional competences at a new level, etc. By implementing this program, the Foundation continues its support of Kazakhstani scientists.
4. The Program is operated and financed by the Foundation.
5. The Program is open to students and young scientists corresponding to the following characteristics :

- they are actively engaged in research in the field of engineering or natural sciences;

- they are citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan;

- they have received an acceptance letter from an internationally acclaimed university for а Master’s degree in engineering or natural sciences.

The pursuit of a Master’s degree should be the logical continuation of a candidate’s academic career.

1. **Competitive Selection of Program Participants**
   1. **Requirements to the participants**
      1. Eligibility: (1) citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan over the age of 18, undergraduate students in their final year of study/or recent graduates, and young scientists with a Bachelor’s degree (Bachelor’s degree must be the highest degree earned by the candidate) and five (5) years of work experience at the time of the application, with a specialization in engineering or natural sciences, (2) who received an acceptance letter from an international university where applicants plan to obtain their Master’s degree in engineering or natural sciences;
      2. A candidate must state and prove his/her active professional, scientific, and social activities;
      3. Candidates must provide an appropriate bachelor's degree in natural science or engineering with an overall GPA not lower than 3.3. Grades must be confirmed by official transcripts;
      4. Competitors must have achievements in Olympiads and/ or have experience in working on university level scientific projects. All information must be confirmed with copies of diplomas and certificates, recommendations from research advisors, applicant’s scientific articles, scientific materials, results of any research, etc;
      5. 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.
   2. **The competition procedure**

The competition is held in four stages:

1. *Submitting Applications*

* Applicants submit filled out Application to the Foundation starting from **April 1 2019 to May 12, 2019.** The following documents must be provided:

1. A copy of the applicant’s national ID;
2. A copy of the applicant’s diploma and official transcript (all semesters);
3. CV;
4. A detailed portfolio of the applicant’s achievements in science;
5. An essay on the following topic: “I want to pursue a master’s degree because …”;
6. A recommendation letter from the applicant’s research advisor;
7. An official acceptance letter from an internationally acclaimed university;
8. A detailed budget estimate of the desired degree.

* The application and all supporting documents must be submitted to the foundation’s email address [info@yessenovfoundation.org](mailto:info@yessenovfoundation.org)
* Applications are registered by an employee of the Foundation. The Foundation reserves the right to disregard any application that does not meet the requirements set in these Provisions.
* At this stage, the assessment and selection is based on the applicant’s academic progress, the completeness of the his|/her application, his|/her various achievements, and his/her motivation to continuously engage in science.
* Additionally, the Foundation reserves the right to determine the ranking of the international university at which an applicant plans to pursue a Master’s degree.
* Up to 15 (fifteen) participants are selected to participate in the second stage of the competition.
* Application evaluation process is open until **May 20, 2019.**

1. *Psychometric testing*

- Testing will evaluate an applicant’s psychological tools, his/her approach to tasks completion, as well as his/her level of intelligence.

- Up to 10 (ten) participants are selected to participate in the third stage of the competition.

- Testing will be conducted until **May 22, 2019.**

1. *Interview with a team of experts:*

* Applicants who submit their application in a timely manner and pass the first two competition stages will be invited to an interview.
* The interview is designed to explore each applicant’s personal qualities, as well as and his/her motivation to continuously engage in science.
* Interviews will be conducted until **May 29, 2019**.
* Up to 5 (five) participants are selected to participate at the fourth stage of the competition.

1. *Self-presentation to the representatives of the Foundation:*

* At this stage applicants present themselves at a meeting with the Foundation’s representatives. Each presentation should not exceed 10 minutes.
* A one-day meeting with the Foundation’s representatives will take place in Almaty within the period of **3-7 June 2019**.
* There will be no more than 2 winners of the competition.
* The Foundation reserves the right to refuse the Grant provision in case of absence of agreeable candidates.
  1. 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;
  2. 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;
  3. The Foundation has the right to refuse Grant provision without disclosing reasons for the refusal.

1. **PROVISION OF GRANT**
   1. The amount of each grant is determined individually based on the application details.
   2. The Foundation reserves the right to determine the amount of the grant independently, regardless of winner’s financial background and the amount required by the chosen degree.
   3. Financial sponsorship is provided to the winners of the competition through a Grant Agreement
   4. The grant is transferred through a money wire to the winners’ bank account.
   5. The Foundation may provide other privileges upon further agreement, including online training, participation in conferences, business meetings, etc.

**Additional information to the Provisions:**

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.