

PROVISIONS OF THE “RESEARCH INTERNSHIPS IN WORLD LABORATORIES” PROGRAM – 2020

I GENERAL CONDITIONS

- 1.1. The “Research Internships in World Laboratories” program provides 17 grants for summer internships in leading scientific and research laboratories of the world (hereinafter – the Program), lasting up to 3 months;
- 1.2. The Program is aimed at supporting talented Kazakhstani students and active research specialists who plan on pursuing a PhD degree in the future and engaging in scientific activities in Kazakhstan;
- 1.3. The purpose of the program is to increase the competitiveness of Kazakhstani students and research specialists in applying for PhD programs through the provision of opportunities to work in the best scientific and research laboratories of the world;
- 1.4. Participants of the program are citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan:
 - active research specialists (their level of education cannot be higher than a Master's degree);
 - undergraduate and graduate students majoring in technical and natural sciences at Kazakhstani universities.
- 1.5. The program’s grants are distributed as follows:
 - 10 grants are allocated to 2-3-year undergraduate students;
 - 7 grants are allocated to final year undergraduate students, 1-2-year Master's students and active research specialists.

II. IMPLEMENTATION STAGES OF THE PROGRAM:

- 2.1. The program is long-term and realized in several stages:

The first stage – competitive selection of the program winners;

The second stage – preparatory stage and internship enrollment:

- the winners independently look for their own research supervisors and laboratories;
 - the winners prepare all necessary documentation (essays, recommendations, translation of scientific works);
 - winners independently obtain their visa and look for accommodation for the duration of the internship.
- At this stage the Foundation accompanies and advises the Program winners.

The third stage – the internship;

- 2.2. To conduct the competitive selection, an Expert Council which selects participants is formed. The decision of the Expert Council is submitted to the Board of Trustees for review;
- 2.3. The decision of the Board of Trustees is approved by the Foundation in the form of an officially certified list of Program winners. The list of winners is published on the Foundation's website;
- 2.4. Applications are accepted in Kazakh, Russian and English. Russian is the working language of the program;
- 2.5. The Foundation has the right to refuse the provision of funds without citing the reasons of refusal;
- 2.6. The Foundation has the right to redistribute the grants indicated in clause 1.5., between undergraduate and graduate students, depending on the quality of the received applications;
- 2.7. The Foundation reserves the right to grant less than 17 grants, if the number of highly qualified contestants in the final stage of the competition is inferior to this number.

III COMPETITIVE SELECTION OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS:

- 3.1. Requirements for the competition participants:

1. The candidate has to be a citizen of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
2. The candidate has to be:
 - an active research specialist (his/her level of education cannot be higher than a Master's degree);
 - or a 2-3-4-year undergraduate student, 1-2-year Master's degree student majoring in technical and natural sciences at a university of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
3. The candidate's GPA should be 3.3 and above;
4. The candidate should have achievements in various scientific Olympiads and competitions;
5. The candidate's command of the English language should be at an "Upper Intermediate" level or above, confirmed by:

- an IELTS certificate – minimum 6.0;
 - a TOEFL iBT certificate – minimum 80;
 - a secondary or higher education taught fully in English;
6. The candidate should be expressing an interest in a particular scientific field, and provide appropriate evidence:
 - his/her scientific articles, materials, results of any research, etc.;
 7. The candidate should demonstrate an interest in entering a PhD program and a desire to engage in scientific activities in Kazakhstan.

3.2. To participate in this competition, the applicant has to:

1. Fill in an online application form on the Foundation's website – yessenovfoundation.org
2. Attach to the application form:

Mandatory documents:

- ID scan;
- An essay on the following topic: "My research internship: my achievements and future plans in science";
- Transcripts (all semesters of study);
- Bachelor's degree diploma with grades (for Master's students and research specialists) or a diploma from the last place of study (undergraduate students) – no more than 1 document;
- Curriculum Vitae.

Additional documents:

- Certificates in Science – no more than 3 certificates*;
- Certificates in active involvement in public life and volunteering – no more than 2 certificates*;
- Publications – no more than 2 publications*
- Recommendation of a research supervisor/the vice-rector or rector of the university – no more than 1 document.

**The Foundation considers a limited number of certificates. A candidate has to independently select certificates, which best reflect his/her achievements.*

3.3. Applications are accepted on the Foundation's website **from November 4 to December 9, 2019.**
Applications will be accepted till December 9, 2019, 15:00 Nur Sultan time (GMT+6);

3.4. By submitting an application on the Foundation's website, the candidate confirms his/her acceptance of and readiness to fully comply with the conditions of the competition;

3.5. Participants of the program who have invitations from scientific laboratories for the research internship automatically become participants of the second round of the program competition;

3.6. Holders of the 2019 grant are not eligible for the 2020 grant.

IV COMPETITION STAGES

4.1. The competition consists of 3 rounds; the strongest applicants are selected at the end of each round:

4.2. The first round is an applications evaluation:

Applications received within the deadline are reviewed and evaluated by Foundation's employees and independent experts in the period from **10 to 25 December 2019;**

Applications are evaluated in accordance with the following criteria:

- candidate's academic performance;
- quality of filling in the application;
- scientific and social achievements of the candidate;
- level of interest in the program;
- level of interest in further scientific activity.

4.3. The second round is an assessment center selection:

Candidates who have passed the first stage of selection are allowed into this stage;

The assessment center aimed at identifying the personal qualities of candidates will be held in the period from **10 to 19 January 2020;**

4.4. The third round is a testing of the personal psychological tools of the candidates.

Online testing, which determines the psychological tools of candidates, as well as their level of information reproduction, will be conducted in the period **from 20 to 23 January 2020**.

4.5. Candidates who have successfully passed all stages of the competitive selection become the winners of the program.

V SPONSORSHIP PROVISION

5.1. Grants are provided to the winners of the program on the basis of a sponsorship agreement;

5.2. The grant covers the following expenses:

- round-trip airfare;
- visa and health insurance costs;
- accommodation;
- meals (approved rate: 40 USD per day, from the date of actual arrival at the location of the internship, for a total period not exceeding 3 months);
- airport-accommodation-airport transfer.

The total amount of the grant cannot exceed 7 500 USD.

The grant is provided in tenge at the market rate on the day of payment.

5.3. A grant recipient who has concluded the sponsorship agreement is obliged to comply with the following terms of the agreement:

- to pass the research internship in due time, according to the established rules of the host laboratory;
- to responsibly fulfill all professional requirements of the research internship;
- to inform the Foundation about the results of the research internship through the provision of relevant reports.
- to provide relevant financial and creative reports in accordance with the terms specified in the sponsorship agreement.