

Provisions of the “2017 Summer internships in UK research laboratories” program of the Shakhmardan Yessenov science and education Foundation

1. General provisions

- 1.1. The research internship program is initiated by the Shakhmardan Yessenov science and education Foundation (hereinafter referred to as the Foundation) for students and specialists (hereinafter the Program) and aims to identify, select, and support talented Kazakhstani scientists and researchers interested in pursuing science long-term and who are also eager to contribute to developing science and Kazakhstan.
- 1.2. Henceforth, the term “sponsorship” means a grant in the amount defined individually paid to each Program participant in Kazakhstan tenge for the period of not exceeding three (3) months that covers a round trip ticket, visa, standard insurance, accommodation and daily meals on ground. Grant is provided on a gratuitous basis to each of Grantees of this Program to undertake a research internship in a UK research laboratory;
- 1.3. By initiating and rendering the present Program, the Foundation believes that the experience gained from these internships will have a positive impact on forming country’s pool of talented scientists;
- 1.4. The Program is carried out and financed by the Shakhmardan Yessenov science and education foundation;
- 1.5. This Program offers the opportunity for the top 5 (five) students shortlisted in the course of a two-stage competitive selection to earn a grant for a research internship in a UK laboratory in the summer of 2017;
- 1.6. The Program is open to undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate students enrolled in universities of Kazakhstan with majors in chemistry or oil and gas disciplines, as well as practicing specialists who already have a degree in the above-mentioned fields. All prospective applicants must be over 18 years old and citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

2. Stages of the Program implementation:

- 2.1. It is a long-term Program and there are several stages of its realization;
- 2.2. Stage I: Competitive selection of the Program participants. At this stage, we will select the best students who demonstrate:
 - excellent knowledge on main subjects,
 - a sound interest in further scientific activity,
 - scientific and other such achievements (Olympiads, conferences, researches),
 - a sufficient command of the English language;
- 2.3. Stage II: a preparatory stage and enrolling to the research internship. At this stage, the participants who have passed the Stage I selection start with preparing for the internship in the UK:
 - 1) compiling the necessary set of documents to obtain visa;
 - 2) obtaining an insurance;
 - 3) searching for accommodation;
 - 4) contacting with the professor regarding the research work;

At this stage, a team of the Program’s consultants shall advise and assist the Program participants (please, see Article 5 of the present Provisions).

3. Competitive Selection of the Program Participants:

3.1. Requirements to the participants:

- 1) Eligibility: (1) citizens of Kazakhstan over 18 years old; (2) practicing specialists in the fields of chemistry and oil and gas and (3) undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate students enrolled in one of the Kazakhstan universities majoring in:
 - Chemistry;
 - Environmental studies;
 - Bioengineering;
 - Oil and gas;
 - Materials science and technology of new materials;
 - Chemical technology of inorganic substances;
 - Chemical technology of organic substances;
 - HSE;
 - Petrochemicals;
 - Nanomaterials and nanotechnologies;
 - other related specializations.
- 2) Competitors must have a well and above academic record (“good” and “excellent” marks) especially in the main subjects for the current academic year. Grades must be confirmed by the original and a copy of the student’s record book (GPA) and accompanied with a recommendation letter(s) from the President/Vice President of the student’s school or research advisor;

- 3) Competitors must have achievements in the Olympiads and scientific projects. Data must be confirmed with copies and originals of diplomas and certificates and any of their attachments;
- 4) Competitors must have a good command of the English language, that is, at least an upper intermediate level and above. In case a competitor cannot provide relevant certificates confirming the language proficiency, they will be given the opportunity to pass a tests and/or an interview;
- 5) Competitor must demonstrate strong interest in specific fields of science and provide relevant evidence to the Foundation, for example, his/her own scientific articles, materials, results of any research, etc.;
- 6) Furthermore, Competitor has to show interest and desire in pursuing science and scientific activity in the long-term. With respect to this, the Competitor must write an essay to support his motivation and choice.

3.2. Required documents

Eligible candidates must submit the Application filled out **in English** to the Foundation **no later than April 23, 2017**. In addition to the application, the following documents must be provided:

1. CV;
2. A copy of applicant's national ID;
3. A copy of applicant's grades record (with all the examination periods) or a copy of diploma;
4. Copies of diplomas, certificates, scientific projects, etc.;
5. An essay on the subject: "I want to undertake this research internship because..."
6. Recommendations from university's President/Vice President or research advisor;
7. English language certificate (IELTS/ TOEFL/other).

The application form contains a list of professors and their current research. Applicant must choose from this list **one professor** whose research topic he/she is interested in working on during the internship should the applicant be one of the 5 (five) grantees.

All of the above listed documents shall be submitted in the English language only. Application and all the required documents must be sent to the Foundation's email: info@yessenovfoundation.org.

3.3. The competition procedure:

Competition is held in two rounds:

1) Applications assessment:

All applications received are verified and evaluated by independent experts based on availability of scientific papers on major-related topics, level of interest and reasons for his/her continuation and desire to be engaged in scientific activity, the English language level, and completeness of application. In case a competitor cannot provide a relevant document stating English language proficiency, he/she will be given the opportunity to pass a telephone interview in English.

No more than 3 candidates for each professor are selected following the results of the first competition round.

2) Selection by professors:

The list of the applicants who successfully pass the first round of the selection will be sent to the professors of a partner university in the UK – the Open University. Professors shall invite the participants of the second round for a telephone or Skype interview at their discretion.

A maximum of five (5) winners are selected from amongst the first round winners. The results of the competition will be announced on the Foundation's website no later May 23, 2017.

4. Team of the Program Consultants:

4.1 The team of the Program consultants includes members of an initiative group of young Kazakhstani scientists studying at the universities around the world;

4.2 Duties of the consultants:

- 1) Consulting Program Participants in a timely manner;
- 2) Consultants render only the consulting/advising help and do not fill out and/or write any forms, applications, essays for the Program participants, nor do they take any other actions which can jeopardize the competition process of the Program;

4.3 Consultants assist gratuitously on their own initiative;

4.4 The Foundation has the right, both on paid and gratuitous basis, to engage trainers and psychologists to carry out the necessary trainings to develop and enhance additional skill sets, knowledge and abilities of the Program's participants.

5. Competitive Selection of the Program Grantees

- 5.1 The Program participants who receive invitations from a research laboratory for the internship automatically become the participants of the final competitive selection to receive the Grant for the internship trip;
- 5.2 Grants will be provided to the best five (5) participants who, in the course of preparation, prove themselves as the most effective, determined, and motivated scientists;
- 5.3 The decision on provision of Grant shall be made jointly (the Contest Committee) by the designated representatives of the Foundation, representatives of the Program consultants team, trainers, and experts;
- 5.4 The list of the Competition winners is published officially on the Foundation's website after it has been approved by the Founder and agreed by the Contest Committee and the members of the board of trustees;
- 5.5 The Foundation reserves the right to refuse the Grant without providing explanation the reason of such refusal.

6. Provision of Grant

- 6.1 The grant is provided to the winners of the competition subject to a grant agreement;
- 6.2 The grant covers a round trip ticket, visa, standard insurance and living expenses (accommodation and food) of the Program Participant for the research internship in the host laboratory. Daily food and transport allowance is 40 GBP;
- 6.3 The grant can be paid by means of a money wire to the Grantee's bank account or in cash directly to the Grantee;
- 6.4 The Grantee who has signed the grant agreement is obliged to meet the following terms and conditions of the Agreement:
 - 1) to undertake the research internship in compliance with the established rules of the foundation and the host laboratory;
 - 2) to deliver his/her work responsibly in the course of the research internship program;
 - 3) to inform the Foundation on a regular basis on progress of the internship by means of providing relevant reports.

Additional information to the Provisions:

1. The research internship program is designed for the following purposes:
 - to give the opportunity for scientists to complete internships in laboratories of leading world universities and scientific centres;
 - to provide incentives for innovation in oil and gas and geology in Kazakhstan;
 - to increase the qualifications of Kazakhstani students and scientists by exposing them to qualitatively different conditions of learning at world's leading universities.