PROVISIONS OF THE YESSENOV LAUNCH PAD COMPETITIVE PROGRAM

I. GENERAL TERMS

1.1. The **YESSENOV LAUNCH PAD** Program (hereinafter referred to as the 'Program') provides up to ten (10) grants for additional training aimed at developing hard skills and/or soft skills, limited to no more than two (2) online/offline training courses, with a duration of up to twelve (12) months.
1.2. The Program is funded at the initiative of the Private foundation 'The Shakhmardan Yessenov Science and Education Foundation' (hereinafter referred to as the 'Foundation').
1.3. **The Program is aimed** at developing hard and soft skills that enable individuals to address professional and life challenges at a higher level of quality.
1.4. In these Provisions, the term 'Grant' refers to financial support of up to six hundred thousand (600,000) tenge awarded to the Program winners, who demonstrate the highest level of interest and determination in pursuing additional education.
1.5. The winners of the Program are selected through an open Competition.

II. PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

2.1. The Program is long-term and is implemented in several stages:
2.1.1. The first stage is the competitive selection of the Program winners;
2.1.2. The second stage - the winners of the Competition independently search for online/offline training courses to develop hard and/or soft skills;
2.1.3. The third stage is the training of the Program winners.
2.2. For conducting a competitive selection, the Foundation establishes an Expert commission, which selects participants. The Expert commission selects scholarship recipients (winners) on the basis of the results of two (2) rounds of the Competition.
2.3. The decision of the Expert commission is approved by the Foundation's order which contains officially certified list of the Program winners. The list of the Program winners is to be published on the Foundation's website: **yessenovfoundation.org.**
2.4. Applications for participation in the Program are accepted in the Kazakh, Russian and English languages. The working language of the Program is Russian.
2.5. The Foundation has the right to refuse to provide funding for the Program training without explaining the reasons for the refusal.
2.6. **The Foundation awards up to ten (10) grants under the Program**. The final decision on the number of the Program grants is determined by the Foundation's Expert Commission.
2.7. The Foundation reserves the right to award fewer or more than ten (10) declared grants, should the Foundation's Expert Council make such a decision.

III. REQUIREMENTS FOR CANDIDATES

3.1. Only citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan who are over eighteen (18) years of age, penultimate and final year undergraduates, 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).*

The following qualities of applicants will be taken into consideration in determining the Program winners:
3.1.1. high intellectual potential;
3.1.2. willingness to develop hard skills;
3.1.3. a broad range of hard skills
3.1.4 focusing on efficiency;
3.1.5. desire and ability to take responsibility for the quality of his/her own life.

3.2. The candidate must declare and confirm the desire to improve his/her hard skills in the areas specified in clause 3.1. of these Provisions, as well as justify the need to develop soft skills:

3.2.1. project management;
3.2.2. professional communication and negotiation;
3.2.3. presentation and public speaking mastery;
3.2.4. stress management;
3.2.5. time management;
3.2.6. emotional intelligence;
3.2.7. leadership and project team management;
3.2.8. others, in coordination with the Foundation.

3.3. To participate in the Competition, a candidate must:
3.3.1. Complete the online application form on the Foundation's website: yessenovfoundation.org.
3.3.2. Attach the following documents to the application:
Required documents:
1) scan of the identity card;
2) an essay explaining why he/she needs additional skills and how they will affect his/her professional and personal life;
3) resume/CV.

Additional documents:
1) a portfolio showcasing the candidate's achievements and/or expressed interests in a specific area, in accordance with clause 3.1. of these Provisions, and provide relevant evidence – no more than three (3) documents.
2) recommendations – no more than one (1) document;
3) certificates confirming academic achievements, success in research and/or engineering activities, participation in conferences, seminars of different levels - no more than three (3) documents*;
4) individual or co-authored publications - no more than two (2) publications;
5) diploma (last place of study), if available – no more than one (1) document;
6) social activities and volunteering certificates – no more than two (2) certificates*

**The Foundation considers a limited number of certificates. The candidate must independently select the certificates that best showcase his/her achievements.*

3.4. Applications are accepted on the Foundation's website: yessenovfoundation.org from September 10 through October 14, 2025.
The deadline for acceptance of applications is October 14, 2025, 3:00 P.M. Astana time (GMT+5). Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

3.5. An application and essay can be submitted in the Kazakh, Russian or English languages. Documents (certificates, diplomas, recommendations, etc.) can be provided in their original language.
3.6. Submission of documents to participate in the Competition implies that the applicant shares the goals of the Program, confirms his/her agreement with all the terms and conditions of the Program as set forth in these Provisions, and is prepared to fully comply with them without any exceptions.

IV. STAGES OF COMPETITIVE SELECTION

4.1. The Competition consists of two (2) rounds. The best candidates are selected after each round.
4.2. The First round of the Competition is an application assessment.
All the applications received on time are reviewed and assessed by the Foundation's employees and independent experts from October 15 through October 27, 2025, in accordance with the following criteria:
4.2.1. portfolio quality;
4.2.2. essay quality;
4.2.3. work experience;
4.2.4. participation in olympiads, conferences, exhibitions, seminars;
4.2.5. availability of publications;
4.2.6. foreign language proficiency;
4.2.7. social activities.

The results of the first round of the Competition will be communicated to the candidate via email. The list of candidates who have passed to the second round of the Competition is to be published on the Foundation's website: yessenovfoundation.org - **no later than October 28, 2025.**

4.3. Based on the results of the first round of the Competition, no more than twenty (20) candidates are selected.

4.4. **The second round of the Competition** is an online individual and/or group interview.
The online interview is conducted by the Foundation's employees and a psychologist **from October 29 through November 7, 2025.**
4.5. The following candidate qualities are assessed during this interview:
4.5.1. hard skills;
4.5.2. learning ability and the ability to quickly perceive and analyze new information;
4.5.3. determination;
4.5.4. the ability to adapt to a new situation and find non-standard solutions;
4.5.5. communication skills;
4.5.6. clarity and reasonableness of goal setting;
4.5.7. emotional intelligence;
4.5.8. others

4.6. The Foundation reserves the right not to comment on its decisions to the participants of the Competition.

4.7. The Foundation makes a final decision **on November 10, 2025**. The list of the Program winners is to be published on the Foundation's website: **yessenovfoundation.org.**

4.8. Based on the results of the second round of the Competition, ten (10) winners of the Program are selected.

V. SPONSORSHIP TERMS AND CONDITIONS

5.1. The Foundation assists the Program winners in finding high-quality further education courses to enhance their hard and/or soft skills.

5.2. The Program winner must coordinate the selected courses with the Foundation. The Foundation may engage an expert to evaluate the quality of the courses.

5.3. To undertake the selected courses, the Competition winner and the Foundation shall enter into a Sponsorship Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the 'Agreement'), which serves as the basis for the Foundation's disbursement of funds (sponsorship assistance).

5.4. The Competition winner awarded an education grant must comply with the terms of the Agreement concluded with the Foundation, including but not limited to:
1) attend courses according to the schedule and not miss classes without a valid reason;
2) responsibly complete all coursework and independent assignments as part of the training course;
3) take exams on time;
4) comply with all other obligations and rules of the educational institution where the Program winner is enrolled in a training course;
5) disseminate information about the Foundation in any appropriate form that supports a positive reputation of the Foundation, including through his/her own social media accounts, as well as distribute information and advertising materials provided by the Foundation;
6) inform the Foundation about their personal achievements in hard and soft skills;
7) participate in blogs and other proposed activities as and when requested by the Foundation.
8) provide **any** information, including that related to participation in the Competition and the implementation of the awarded grant (internship, scholarship, training, etc.), as and when requested by the Foundation, no later than three (3) business days from the date the request is received at the email address specified in the application;
9) provide assistance in the Foundation's activities and programs as and when requested by the Foundation;
10) provide personal photos, text, and video materials (from places of study/work/internships/social events, etc.) as and when requested by the Foundation (**people's appearance and clothing in photos**

and videos must be neat and appropriate for a secular setting), as well as participate in photo and video sessions during the Foundation's events, with the purpose of creating success stories for the Foundation's platforms and other publications aimed at motivating the youth of Kazakhstan;
11) in performing their obligations under the Agreement, the Program winner and the Foundation's employees shall refrain from committing, encouraging any actions that violate or contribute to the violation of the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, including in the field of combating corruption. They shall not pay, offer to pay or authorize the payment of any money or valuables, directly or indirectly, to any persons to influence their actions or decisions in order to obtain any unlawful advantage or achieve other improper objectives.

5.5. For all questions regarding the Program and/or the Provisions, please contact the authorized representatives of the Foundation:

- Aigerym Sultan: aigerim.s@yessenovfoundation.org, phone: +7 701 627 9607;
- Irina Grishchenko: irina.g@yessenovfoundation.org, phone: +7 771 775 1815.

5.6. 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 Competition at any round and/or the Program in the event that the information is found to be inaccurate or false.

5.7. The Foundation reserves the right not to provide explanations regarding the motives and reasons behind decisions concerning applicants for the Program grants.