

## PROVISIONS of the Yessenov Data Lab 2026 Program

### I. General terms.

1.1 **The Yessenov Data Lab Program** (hereinafter referred to as the “Program”) is a 4-week intensive training course for young Kazakhstani scientists and professionals in the basic skills of working with Big Data and artificial intelligence. Participants will acquire knowledge and practical skills that will help them apply advanced technologies in their professional activities.

1.2. The Program is funded by the initiative of the private “The Shakhmardan Yessenov Science and Education Foundation” (hereinafter referred to as “the Foundation”).

1.3. The Program is aimed to support the acquisition of skills in working with Big Data and artificial intelligence by young scientists, which are essential for further professional growth and independent work in this field.

1.4. In these Provisions, the term “sponsorship” refers to funding for training, including payment of lecturer fees, as well as technical and administrative costs.

1.5. Participation in the Program is free of charge for the winners. Twenty (20) Program winners are selected from among the Program competitors annually. The Foundation reserves the right to change the number of participants.

1.6. The winners of the Program are selected through an open competition. The competition is held once a year.

1.7. **The Program involves training in Big Data and artificial intelligence skills for four (4) weeks from June 15 through July 10, 2026, at the Yessenov Data Lab Summer School of the Foundation. This includes two (2) weeks online - from June 15 through June 26, 2026, and two (2) weeks offline - from June 29 through July 10, 2026, in Almaty. Language of instruction is Russian, with the possible use of technical English elements.**

### II. Requirements for the Program participants.

2.1. Only citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan who are over eighteen (18) years of age, undergraduate students, 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.

2.2. The following qualities of applicants will be taken into consideration when determining the winner of the Program:

- 2.2.1. high intellectual potential;
- 2.2.2. willingness to develop professional skills;
- 2.2.3. focusing on results;
- 2.2.4. adaptability.

\* 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).

2.3. The applicants must declare and provide documentary evidence of their active professional, scientific, and social activities, as well as demonstrate that their professional skills meet the following requirements:

- 2.3.1. strong analytical skills;
- 2.3.2. interest and willingness to engage in scientific activities and/or develop IT technologies in Kazakhstan;
- 2.3.3. basic knowledge of statistics and linear algebra;
- 2.3.4. basic knowledge of programming (in any programming language).

2.4. The applicant must have a personal laptop with characteristics sufficient for comfortable programming. Recommended parameters:

2.4.1. CPU Intel Core Gen 7 and higher, Mac Silicon M1 and higher.

2.4.2. RAM 6 GB and higher.

2.5. To have a stable Internet connection with a recommended speed of 20 Mbps, but not less than 10 Mbps, or higher.

2.6 **The following will be an advantage:**

2.6.1 interest in science;

2.6.2 own scientific articles, materials, results of any research, etc.;

2.6.3 English language proficiency at Level B1 or higher.

### III. Stages of the competitive selection process of the Program.

3.1. The competition implies three (3) selection stages, at the end of each of which the best applicants are selected. The announcement about the opening of the competition is published on the Foundation's website: [yessenovfoundation.org](http://yessenovfoundation.org) and on the Foundation's social media.

3.2. An Expert Council is created at the Foundation to conduct the competitive selection among the participants of the Program. The decision of the Expert Council is submitted to the Head of the Foundation for consideration.

3.3. The decision of the Head of the Foundation is approved by the order which contains officially certified list of the Program winners. The list of the Program winners is published on the Foundation's website: [yessenovfoundation.org](http://yessenovfoundation.org).

3.4. **The first round is acceptance and evaluation of applications.** To participate in the selection process for the Program, the candidate must:

3.4.1. fill out the online application on the Foundation's website: [yessenovfoundation.org](http://yessenovfoundation.org);

3.4.2. attach to the application:

**Mandatory documents:**

1. copy of ID;

2. student transcript (GPA not lower than 3.0). Applications with a GPA lower than 3.0 will not be considered.

3. certificate on the presence/absence of a criminal record.

4. a copy of the academic transcript (covering all semesters) or a bachelor's diploma with grades (for master's students and specialists);

5. an essay on the topic "I want to learn how to analyze data so that..." (not less than 7 sentences and no more than 750 words) must be submitted only in an editable document and written in the language of the application form – Kazakh, Russian, or English.

6. CV

**Additional documents:**

1. a portfolio demonstrating the candidate's achievements in scientific research and/or expressed interests in a specific scientific/technical area, along with providing relevant supporting documents:

a. certificates for participation/victories in an olympiad – no more than two (2) certificates\*;

b. certificates confirming completion of courses, etc. – no more than two (2) certificates\*;

c. certificates for social activity and volunteering – no more than two (2) certificates\*;

d. publications – no more than two (2) publications\*;

*\*When reviewing additional documents, the Foundation considers the limited number of certificates/publications provided by the candidate. The candidate must independently select the certificates/publications/others that best represent personal achievements.*

e. links to projects in which the candidate participated or implemented independently – no more than 3 examples (for each example, no more than 2 photos/screenshots of pages/links to websites and/or social media, along with a text explanation of no more than 150 words)\*.

3.4.3. Applications are accepted on the Foundation's website: [yessenovfoundation.org](http://yessenovfoundation.org), **from March 26 through April 28, 2026.**

**The deadline for acceptance of applications is April 28, 2026, 3:00 P.M. Astana time (GMT+5).**

### Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

3.4.4. An application and essay can be submitted in the Kazakh, Russian, or English languages. Documents (certificates, diplomas, letters of recommendation, etc.) are accepted in their original language.

3.4.5. By submitting documents for the competition, the applicant confirms that they share the goals of the Program, agree to all terms of the competition procedure set forth in these Provisions, and undertake to fully comply with them.

3.4.6. All applications submitted on time shall be reviewed and evaluated by the Foundation's staff and independent experts **by May 12, 2026, inclusive**.

3.4.7. The list of applicants advancing to the **second round** will be published no later than **May 13, 2026**, on the Foundation's website: [yessenovfoundation.org](http://yessenovfoundation.org). Upon completion of the **first round** of the competition, no more than sixty (60) candidates will be selected.

### 3.5. The second round is testing.

3.5.1. The second round is held from **May 14 through May 20, 2026**.

3.5.2. The test consists of thirty (30) questions and lasts 60 minutes. It is held online. Types of questions include, but are not limited to: single-choice, multiple-choice, and open-ended questions (free text input).

3.5.3. For a successful passing the test, the candidate must have **basic knowledge** of the following topics:

- 1) matrices, linear equations;
- 2) graphs (mathematics);
- 3) linear regression, means, medians;
- 4) graphing functions;
- 5) variables, loops, conditions, and arrays (in the Python programming language);
- 6) basic knowledge of statistics and probability theory - probability distributions, random variable, math. expectation, covariance, normal distribution.

3.5.4. The list of applicants advancing to the **third round** will be published no later than **May 21, 2026**, on the Foundation's website. Upon completion of the second round, no more than forty (40) candidates will be selected.

### 3.6. The third round is an interview.

3.6.1. The third round is held from **May 22 through June 3, 2026**.

3.6.2. Participants of the third round are invited to an online interview with the Foundation's Expert Council. During the interview process independent experts evaluate:

- a. analytical skills;
- b. professional qualities of the candidates;
- c. programming skills and experience (if there are any);
- d. high intellectual potential;
- e. continuous commitment to the development of one's professional skills;
- f. other.

3.6.3. During the interview, the experts will also evaluate the candidates according to the following criteria:

- a. general communication;
- b. value system and attitudes, motivation;
- c. general activity;
- d. emotional intelligence;
- e. understanding of the demands of the modern world;
- f. general psychological maturity;
- g. thinking;
- h. willingness of the applicants to post motivational content on social media.

3.6.4. Duration of the interview is up to forty (40) minutes. Upon completion of the third round of the competition, twenty (20) winners will be selected.

3.6.5. The Foundation reserves the right not to comment on its decisions to the participants of the competition.

3.6.6. The list of the winners of the competition will be published no later than **June 5, 2026**, on the Foundation's website: [yessenovfoundation.org](http://yessenovfoundation.org).

#### IV. Sponsorship Procedure.

4.1. Sponsorship assistance is granted to **twenty (20) winners** from among the best participants of the Program's competition. The number of the Program winners may be increased or decreased depending on the quantity and quality of the applications received, and the decision of the Foundation's Expert Council.

4.2. As a result of the competitive selection process of the Program, the winners will undergo a 4-week training at the Foundation's Yessenov Data Lab Summer School (hereinafter referred to as "the School") free of charge, from June 15 through July 10, 2026, including **two (2) weeks online** - from June 15 through June 26, 2026, and **two (2) weeks offline** - from June 29 through July 10, 2026, in Almaty. The Foundation covers travel and accommodation expenses for the winners residing outside of Almaty. The Foundation provides meals for all participants of the School during the offline training in Almaty.

4.3. Before commencement of the training at the School, the Foundation and the winner of the Program sign a Sponsorship Agreement (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement").

4.4. The winner of the Program, who has received the grant for training, is required to comply with the terms of the Agreement with the Foundation, including but not limited to the following:

- 1) attend the School classes according to the schedule and not miss classes without a valid reason;
- 2) responsibly complete all assignments, including independent work tasks as part of the training at the School. The completion of practical tasks will be checked using artificial intelligence systems that analyze the quality and completeness of the work;
- 3) pass the exams at the School timely;
- 4) comply with other obligations and rules of the School;
- 5) to disseminate information about the Foundation in any appropriate form, including publications on their social media accounts, ensuring the positive reputation of the Foundation, as well as to distribute informational materials provided by the Foundation;
- 6) to post at least two (2) publications on their social media accounts using the Foundation's and its founder's hashtags - #yessenovfoundation, #galimzhanyessenov - during the period from the completion of the competition and the award of the Program winner status to the participant until one (1) week after the end of the training;
- 7) to actively interact with the Foundation's representatives responsible for working with beneficiaries, as specified in clause 4.5 of these Provisions, by providing timely responses to arising questions and information regarding results achieved;
- 8) to inform the Foundation of their achievements in professional activities and soft skills development;
- 9) to participate in filming, info sessions, and other communication activities upon the Foundation's request. Such photos and videos may subsequently be used on the Foundation's social media and in its publications;
- 10) to provide information upon the Foundation's request no later than three (3) business days from the date of receipt of the inquiry at the email address specified in the application;
- 11) upon the Foundation's request, to provide assistance in its activities and programs;
- 12) to provide personal photos, text, and video materials (from places of study, work, internships, social events, etc.) upon request of the Foundation (ensuring that individuals in the photos and videos appear neat and appropriately dressed for a secular environment), and to participate in photo and video sessions during the Foundation's events to create success stories for the Foundation's platforms and other publications aimed at motivating young people in Kazakhstan;
- 13) in performing their obligations under the Agreement, the Program winner and the Foundation's employees shall refrain from committing, and 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.
- 14) during online classes at the School, when necessary and upon the request of teachers/lecturers, to demonstrate their computer screen and turn on their webcam.

**4.5 For any questions regarding the Program and/or the Provisions, please contact the authorized representatives of the Foundation:**

- **Grigoriy Lee:** grigoriy.l@yessenovfoundation.org, phone number: +7 705 888 5788;

- **Irina Grishchenko:** irina.g@yessenovfoundation.org, phone number: +7 771 775 1815.

4.6. The Foundation reserves the right to verify the information provided by applicants and/or winners of the Program by any legal means and to exclude any applicant from the Competition at any stage and/or from the Program in the event that such information is found to be inaccurate.

4.7. The Foundation reserves the right not to provide explanations regarding the motives or reasons for decisions made concerning grant applicants under the Program.