

## QA for international students

### 1. What does the scholarship cover?

If you are offered a scholarship in the admissions letter, it will cover your tuition fee for the entire period of study plus a medical insurance, and you will also be given a monthly stipend. The stipend given to international students is on equal basis to Kazakhstani students. The approximate amount per month, according to your educational degree, is the following:

**1 USD = 450 KZT\***

**Foundation:** 49 USD

**Bachelor:** 58 USD

**Master:** 277 USD

**PhD:** 226 USD + teaching or research assistantship bonus

\*As of April 19, 2023

**Note:** The exchange rate from KZT to USD is subject to change.

The condition to continue receiving a monthly stipend for the following semesters, is for the student to be in good academic standing and do not have any misconduct reports:

- For Foundation and bachelor's degree, your semester GPA should be of two points and above out of four.
- For Master programs, you should maintain a semester GPA of three points and above out of four.
- For PhD programs besides maintaining a semester GPA of three points and above, you should also deliver a report of your research activities at the end of each semester (depending on the indications given by the students' office at your school).

### 2. If admitted on a tuition fee-basis, how should I process the payment (one at a time, upon arrival or in several tranches)?

Once you have accepted your decision of admission, you will be notified by email to stop by at the Bursar's office on campus to sign your agreement in person upon arrival and proceed to do the payment.

Bursar's office offers three payment modalities:

Payment at one time: It is done ten days after the signing of the agreement. If deciding to go on this modality and pay on time, a 5% discount is entitled to you.

- Payment in two tranches: If you decide to do your payment in two parts, you will do the first payment at the beginning of the fall semester (August), and the second payment at the middle of October.
- Payment in three tranches: You will do the first payment at the beginning of the fall semester (August), the second payment at the middle of October, and the third payment at the beginning of January.
- Payment in four tranches: You will do the first payments in the months indicated at the three tranches section, plus a final payment on March.

If you will be enrolled at NU as a visiting student, please refer to your destination school's office for further information related to fares per credit.

### 3. Does NU offer visa support for international students?

All International students need a Student Visa (C9 category) to come to Kazakhstan. This type of visa is given for the period of one year and allows you to make multiple entries to Kazakhstan. Visa shall be renewed each year. Nazarbayev University, through the Department of International Cooperation, supports international students as follows:

- According to the Government order #175 dated 05.03.2013 Article 83 an Invitation Letter with a reference number for a study visa support is issued by the MFA of the Republic of Kazakhstan.
- The Office of International Students and Scholars Services (OISSS) will submit the documents to the Migration Police as soon as the Agreement for Educational Services with Nazarbayev University is signed. Once the Letter of Invitation (LOI) is ready, its copy will be emailed to you.
- As soon as you receive your Letter of invitation, check to make sure all your personal information is correct. If any of the information on your letter of invitation does not match the information in your passport or is otherwise incorrect, please contact Department of International Cooperation immediately.

#### **STEP 1**

To obtain Letter of Invitation (LOI) the following documents should be submitted by the international students to the school manager:

- NU Visa Invitation Form;
- Copy of passport (first page);
- NOTE! Residence permit or Long-term visa required if residency is different from citizenship.

**Letter of Invitation issuance processing time: 5-7 business days.**

#### **STEP 2**

Upon receipt of the invitation letter, the applicant submits all the documentation to the Kazakhstan's Embassy/Consulate abroad where he/she plans to obtain a visa in person. It is solely personal responsibility of the applicant to double-check the list of the required documents posted on the official web site of the Kazakh Embassy/Consulate. The following documents are usually required:

- Copy of visa invitation letter.
- Passport (valid for at least 6 months longer than the validity of the requested visa and have at least 2 blank pages to stamp the visa);
- Copy of passport (first page)
- Completed visa application form (available on the official website of the Kazakh Embassy/Consulate);
- One (1) (3.5cmx4.5cm) photograph.
- Visa fee

**Visa issuance processing time: 5-business days**

**Note:** In case the student does not have an Embassy of Kazakhstan in his/her home country, and if there aren't any Embassies of Kazakhstan closer to the applicant's home country, the visa can be obtained upon arrival at the airport. For further information about this procedure, please get in touch with Maulen Yergaziyev, Senior Manager of International Students Services well before coming to Kazakhstan [maulen.yergaziyev@nu.edu.kz](mailto:maulen.yergaziyev@nu.edu.kz)

#### **4. How much does the accommodation cost?**

The amount to pay for the dormitory accommodation is divided into two different modalities: Standard tariff and commercial tariff.

- **Standard tariff** applies to Undergraduate and Graduate students staying during the summer, fall and spring semesters who have registered courses via the Office of the Registrar system, who have internship approved by their schools, Career and Advising Center or who have research (thesis

- projects).
- **Commercial tariff** applies when the students decide to stay in the dormitory for the winter break. Regarding this tariff details please contact [student\\_housing@nu.edu.kz](mailto:student_housing@nu.edu.kz).

Below, we provide the breakdown of the dormitory tariffs\* per semester calculated in KZT/USD:

Type of accommodation	Standard tariff (KZT/USD per semester)
<b>For students of Bachelor and Master's degree:</b> Double occupancy in a dormitory room with two beds	26 260 KZT / 63 USD
<b>For students of PhD and Residency:</b> Triple occupancy in a dormitory apartment	60 000 KZT / 133 USD

Additionally, on a competitive basis, students with families can be able to apply for one-bedroom apartments or studios on campus. The average cost per month is 100 000 KZT (222 USD) + a deposit of a two-month rent cost in amount of 200 000 KZT (436 USD) .

If you pay a contribution to Student Fund (approximately 10 USD per semester), you will be eligible to get a 20% discount applied to the total price of your semester stay. Please note that this discount only applies for standard tariff and should be paid before check-in and before paying the dormitory fee. The discount does not apply for family studio apartments.

**\*Note:** For students in socially vulnerable category (SVC): orphans, having physical or mental disabilities, or coming from multi-child family, the dormitory is free of charge. Please contact Housing Department [student\\_housing@nu.edu.kz](mailto:student_housing@nu.edu.kz) for their consideration and confirmation.

#### 5. What type of accommodation do you offer? What type of accommodation do you offer formarried students?

Accommodation on campus is provided automatically for all international students on a paid basis once they have received their acceptance letter and submitted their documents.

The choices of accommodation for international students are the following:

##### a) For single students:

- **Double occupancy in a dormitory room with two beds:** Given to students enrolled in Bachelor, and Master programs.
- **Triple occupancy in a dormitory apartment:** Given to students enrolled in PhD and Residency programs.

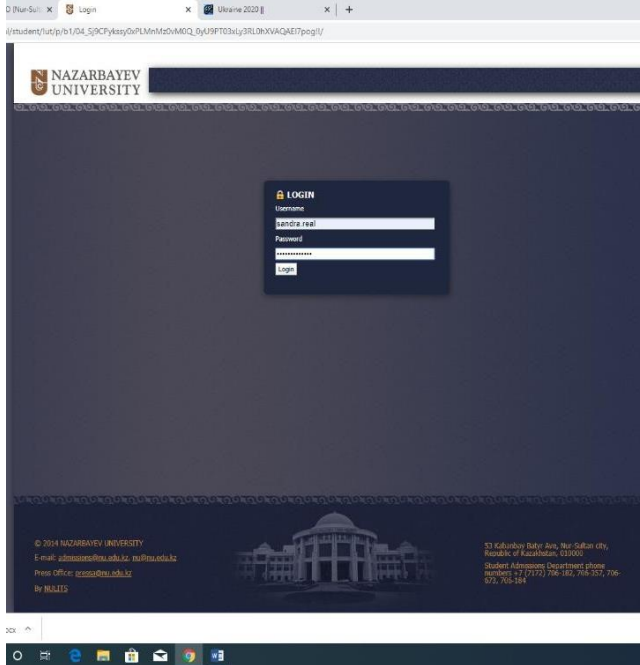
##### b) For married students:

- **Family students (conformed by a student and a spouse)** can apply for single occupancy in a dormitory room with two beds.
- **Family students with children** can apply for accommodation in one-bedroom or studio apartments on a competitive basis. Therefore, if you are interested in this type of accommodation, we strongly suggest you notify [student\\_housing@nu.edu.kz](mailto:student_housing@nu.edu.kz) in advance before your arrival to Kazakhstan to be informed about the application procedure, and check the availability of apartments during the fall semester.

**Note:** If you decide that you would like to live in the city instead of living on campus, please notify the Admissions department in advance before coming to Kazakhstan. If you are not sure how to search for an apartment and the types of accommodation existing in the city, please notify the Office of International Students and Scholars Services [oiss@nu.edu.kz](mailto:oiss@nu.edu.kz). We will guide your request to colleagues that can assist you in the process.

## 6. How do I pay for the accommodation?

Payment for the student’s dormitory is made at the beginning of each semester between the second and fourth week. Once you have obtained your NU email account, you will be able to access your personal account to make payment for accommodation, sport center membership, laundry, and for printing services.



At the student portal, go to “My account”.



To apply for a **20% discount** on your dormitory fee, first make sure to contribute to the student fund. Click in the icon that says, “Student Fund”, you will see the price (approximately 4000 KZT). Later, click in “Pay off” and provide banking details such as your name, your card number, and cvv. After the transaction, you will be sent an invoice to your email to prove that the payment was completed.

**Sandra Real Avila**  
ID:201761891

**MAKE A PAYMENT** MY PAYMENTS

**LAUNDRY**

- Laundry fee - Bedding
- Laundry fee - Bed clothes

**SPORTS**

- Multi-visit pass

**OTHER**

- Recovering ID
- Dormitory fee
- Student fund

**SERVICE DETAILS**

**WHAT IS STUDENT FUND?**  
Student life in Nazarbayev University – it is not just a study process and practice, but a creative self-realization in more than 100 student clubs and organizations, covering various spheres of intellectual development, scientific research, creativity, entertainment, culture, art and sports.

Students' ideas and projects implementation is possible by the resources of the Student fund created to raise funds for the development and support of student life at the University and finance student activities at the expense of the received funds.

**HOW TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENT LIFE?**  
The students' contributions can be listed only through the website [www.my.nu.edu.kz/](http://www.my.nu.edu.kz/)  
The minimum amount of student's contribution is 3 500 KZT (three thousand five hundred) per semester, which is approved annually by the University Student Government decision in coordination with the Department of Student Affairs, for 2017.

**PAYMENT DETAILS**

- Payment for semester

**SUM - 3500 KZT** **PAY OFF**

**Note:** In case you are facing problems in doing your payment for accommodation, don't hesitate to get in touch with our Housing specialist Yerzhan Kani [yerzhan.kani@nu.edu.kz](mailto:yerzhan.kani@nu.edu.kz) for support.

## 7. What are the monthly expenses and how much money will I spend per month?

These are the estimated lower and upper costs of living while being a student in Astana. Please note that the cost of living can vary greatly depending on your lifestyle, budget and spending habits.

Here we provide you with a monthly budget in case you are considering living on campus at the student dormitories:

Expenditures	Monthly costs Lower range	Monthly costs Upper range
Accommodation on campus	6 000	9 000
Food	30 000	50 000
Mobile phone	2 000	4 000
Laundry	2 000	5 000
Printing, stationery, photocopying	1 000	2 000
Health insurance	2 000	2 000
Transportation	1 000	4 000
Gym	1 000	25 000
Entertainment	25 000	45 000
<b>Total (KZT)</b>	<b>70 000</b>	<b>146 000</b>
<b>Total (USD)</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>350</b>

In case you are considering renting an apartment or applying for a family studio apartment oncampus, here is the average amount a student will spend per month:

Expenditures	Monthly costs Lower range	Monthly costs Upper range
One bedroom apartment/studio	100 000	100 000
Food	30 000	50 000
Mobile phone	2 000	4 000
Laundry	2 000	5 000
Printing, stationery, photocopying	1 000	2 000
Health insurance	2 000	2 000
Transportation	1 000	4 000
Gym	1 000	25 000
Entertainment	25 000	45 000
<b>Total (KZT)</b>	<b>164 000</b>	<b>287 000</b>
<b>Total (USD)</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>526</b>

### 8. What food is available on campus (vegetarian?)

Here are some of the places recommended by students where you can have your meals on campus, some of these canteens or cafeterias have vegetarian options.

Breakfast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canteen block 4, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (Mon to Fri 8:00 am-19:30 pm).</li> <li>Canteen block 22, 1<sup>st</sup> floor (Mon to Sun 8:30 am-22:00pm).</li> <li>Canteen block 20, 1<sup>st</sup> floor (8:30 am-22:00 pm)</li> <li>Midpoint, first floor, block C3.</li> <li>Kunde café, 1<sup>st</sup> floor block C2.</li> </ul>	The menu is a classic 5 course meal which includes soups, appetizers, salads, main courses and desserts. You can find here some vegetarian options for lunch in the menu such as lentil soups, noodles, and salads with fresh vegetables.
Lunch		
Dinner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kunde café, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, block C2</li> <li>Health Project cafe, between blocks C2, C3, and C4.</li> </ul>	Salads, fruit, cereals, soft drinks, boiled vegetables, fresh pastries, meat-free international specialties from Asian and Mexican cuisine.
Vegetarian options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Midpoint, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, block C3.</li> <li>Kunde café, 1<sup>st</sup> floor block C2.</li> </ul>	Middle Eastern, Turkish, European, Asian, Italian and regional cuisine. They also offer an executive menu during lunch time for NU staff members and students from Monday till Friday.
International cuisine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daily cup, basement between the blocks C2, C3, and C4.</li> <li>La Tartine, main campus.</li> </ul>	Great selection of cold and hot beverages, pastries, French cuisine, and salads.
Cafeterias		

## 9. May I cook in my room?

**If you were admitted to a Foundation, Bachelor, Master program**, each floor in your dormitory is equipped with a kitchen that can be accessed by the residents living on that specific floor. Each kitchen is equipped with two fridges, two freezers, two cookers, two ovens, cupboards and drawers where you can leave your food and dishes.

**If you were admitted to a PhD program**, your apartment will be equipped with the kitchen with a fridge, a cooker, cupboards and drawers.

Please note that each student should buy their own kitchen appliances upon arrival. If you would like to receive recommendations in where to buy them in the city at affordable prices, don't hesitate to contact Madina Aubakirova, Manager of Office of International Students Services [m.aubakirova@nu.edu.kz](mailto:m.aubakirova@nu.edu.kz) who will provide you with tips on the stores or markets in the city upon request.

## 10. Can I get a job on campus?

According to the laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan, international students under a C9 type visa are not allowed to apply for a work permit and engage in activities outside of campus in the form of internships, part-time or full-time jobs during the duration of their studies. This rule also applies for summer and winter breaks.

The only students that can engage on internships and part-time jobs outside of campus are citizens of countries belonging to the Eurasian Economic Union such as Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia, or students who have permanent residence permit in Kazakhstan.

In case you are not a citizen of the previous listed countries, do not worry at all! Nazarbayev University, through the Career and Advising Center department, offers you the opportunity to apply for the "Work on campus" program and get an international work experience during your studies in administrative departments of the university and its affiliated organizations. Under this program, you will be allowed to work 10 hours per week. If you would like to find out more information, please don't hesitate in getting in touch with CAC: [cac@nu.edu.kz](mailto:cac@nu.edu.kz).

Once you have received your NU email account, make sure to visit the CAC portal: <https://cac.nu.edu.kz/en/> and click in the icon "Find a job/internship". In this section, you need to sign up with your NU account, create your profile, and upload your CV or resume. Once you have completed your profile, you will be able to apply for any part-time work opportunity on campus. If you are close to graduate, you can also use this portal to apply for full-time job positions in Astana and other cities in Kazakhstan.

Also, some international students have been able to cover their personal expenses working as part-time teaching assistants. Usually these positions are advertised by academic departments of each school or through the [nu.edu.kz](https://careers.smartrecruiters.com/NazarbayevUniversity1/administrative-academic-jobs) portal in the section of "Administrative and Academic jobs" <https://careers.smartrecruiters.com/NazarbayevUniversity1/administrative-academic-jobs>

## 11. How much money should I bring with me?

- We recommend bringing between 400-500 USD minimum to cover your personal expenses during the first two months (August-September) while you receive your first stipend in October. This amount will be enough to cover firsthand necessities such as getting kitchen appliances for cooking at the dormitories, buying winter clothes, covering daily food expenses, for buying a SIM and transportation card, laundry services, and hiring internet services.
- In case you are not receiving a stipend, we suggest a part of the extra 500 USD to cover firsthand necessities during the months of August and September, to have in your bank account minimum 300-400 USD every month for your living expenses.

## 12. What are the closest supermarkets/shopping malls and banks?

For your reference, here we provide recommendations given by both local and international students at Nazarbayev University:

### Supermarkets

Name	Address
Galmart	Inside the MegaSilkway mall, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor, Qabanbay Batyr Ave 62,
Small	Turan Ave., 65
Magnum	Turan Ave., 55
Interfood	Inside the Khan Shatyr mall, 0 floor. Turan Ave. 37
Vkus mart	Inside Saryarqa mall, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor, Turan ave 24
Gastronom	Saraishyk and Qaraotkel streets

There are also mini-markets on the campus where you can buy some food and essentials.

### Shopping malls

Name	Address	Highlights of each mall
Mega Silkway	Qabanbay Batyr Ave 62,	This is the largest shopping center in Kazakhstan. Here you can purchase brand-name clothing, electronic and household appliances for your dormitory, go to the cinema to watch Kazakh films or the current international movies, visit beauty parlors, cafes, and restaurants. Website: <a href="http://www.mega.kz">www.mega.kz</a>
Khan Shatyr	Turan ave 37	This facility is both a shopping and entertainment center, it's possible to purchase here souvenirs, find Turkish and European brand clothing stores offering affordable prices and discounts between November-January, and August-September. Besides stores, the highlight of this place is a beach in the last floor that has sand coming from the Maldives, an amusement park, gyms, and an aqua park. Website: <a href="http://www.khanshatyr.com">www.khanshatyr.com</a>
Abu Dhabi Plaza	Syghanaq St 16/5	Lots of discounts in winter clothing during December. European clothing brands. New facilities.
Saryarqa	Turan ave 24	This is a shopping center with a unique architectural design, In the territory of 18,000 square meters there are brand stores, restaurants of Uyghur, Japanese, Turkish, and Central Asian cuisine plus coffee houses. Website <a href="http://www.saryarqa.com">www: saryarqa.com</a>
Keruen city	Korgalzhyn Highway 1	This mall is one of the preferred choices to visit in company of family members or friends. Apart of doing shopping of clothes or books, you can visit after your visit the most popular recreation center in the city of Nur-Sultan: Website: <a href="http://www.keruency.kz">www.keruency.kz</a>

Keruen	Dostyq street9	This shopping center is family oriented. The interior of the center is designed in the form of the Great Silk Road. Besides the brand stores, you can visit KinoPark Multiplex Cinemas and Happylon amusement park. On the third floor you can taste the dishes of Japanese, Georgian, Italian, and Uzbek cuisines. Website: <a href="http://www.keruen.kz">www.keruen.kz</a>
Asia Park	Kabanbay batyr ave 21	You can visit 150 stores, Arman Cinema, Baby Park family amusement center, a petting zoo, a fitness center, and a sky bar where you can enjoy the panoramic view of the city at night. In the second and third floor you can add balance to your Astra bus card. Website: <a href="http://www.asiapark.kz">www.asiapark.kz</a>

### 13. How do I open a bank account and get a card?

First, you need to obtain an IIN (Individual Identification Number). The IIN is a 12-digit Individual Identification Number for natural persons with first six digits representing person's date of birth in the YYMMDD format. This number will allow you to open a bank account at any branch in Kazakhstan. Besides, the IIN is used by the government as a means of tracking their citizens, permanent residents, and temporary residents for the purposes of work, taxation, government benefits,

Upon your arrival to NU, please stop by at the OISSS (block C2, office 2017) and ask for Maulen Yergaziyev or Madina Aubakirova, Managers of International Student Services. They will help you in scheduling an appointment with the Public Service Centre where you will be able to obtain a digital version of the IIN which later on you can print and take to the bank branch of your choice.

Some of the most important bank branches in Kazakhstan where it is possible to get a multicurrency debitcard (in KZT, USD, EUR, RUB, GBP or CNY) are the following:

#### Banks

Branch's name	Address	Schedule	Official website
Halyk Bank	Nazarbayev University, block 1, first floor	9 am -6 pm	<a href="https://halykbank.kz/en">https://halykbank.kz/en</a>
Jysan Bank	Nazarbayev University, between blocks 3 and 5, first floor		<a href="https://jysanbank.kz/">https://jysanbank.kz/</a>
Sberbank	Mega Silkway, 1st floor		<a href="https://www.sberbank.kz/en/individuals">https://www.sberbank.kz/en/individuals</a>
Eurasian Bank	Qabanbay Batyr Ave., 30		<a href="https://eubank.kz/?lang=en">https://eubank.kz/?lang=en</a>
Kaspi bank	Dostyq st., 12	9 am - 8 pm	<a href="https://kaspi.kz/">https://kaspi.kz/</a>

You can check the bank branches of your choice before your arrival to Astana to have enough time to see which card and bank tariff suits you best according to your personal interests. Also, you can find out if your chosen bank branch has English speaking managers.

Once you have picked the bank of your choice, in case you don't speak any Russian or Kazakh, take a local friend or contact your school's manager or the OISSS managers to find a volunteer among the staff members or the local student community that can accompany you to the bank and translate for you.

### 14. Where can I study Russian and Kazakh?

At Nazarbayev University, you can take Russian and Kazakh **free of charge courses**. Every fall and spring semester, the Association of International Students organizes courses on Russian and Kazakh language twice a week during working days, plus a speaking club to practice Russian or Kazakh during weekends for students and faculty

members with a previous background in the language. Apart of the Russian lessons, the unit organizes courses in Spanish, Romanian, Swedish, Bulgarian, among other languages. This is a volunteer initiative that welcomes international students and faculty members to become tutors of their native languages or a language that they have studied for some time, and get acquainted the NU community with the culture, cuisine, music, and traditions of their countries.

For further information about the program, or if you would like to become a voluntary tutor with us, please get in touch with Yulia Palkina: [yuliya.palkina@nu.edu.kz](mailto:yuliya.palkina@nu.edu.kz). We are always eager to incorporate new languages, ideas, and cultural events to promote our international student community.

Every year, between May and July, the Summer School of Russian and Eurasian Studies opens its doors to welcome international students from around the world, and international students enrolled in full-time programs at Nazarbayev University to join an intensive program in Russian or Kazakh languages. This program offers four hours instruction of the language of choice during working days plus extracurricular activities such as speaking club, movie nights, sport activities, participation in talent shows, board game night, among other activities organized upon request of the students. For further information about the costand specific details about the courses, please don't hesitate in contacting Andrey Filchenko: [andrey.filchenko@nu.edu.kz](mailto:andrey.filchenko@nu.edu.kz) .