K12 ACADEMICS — INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERIES

# Studying in Kazakhstan

A guide for international students & families — how Kazakhstan's higher education works, the C9 student visa, affordable tuition, English programs, full scholarships, and medicine.

K12 ACADEMICS

Find Your Community

2026 EDITION

ABOUT K12 ACADEMICS

# The world's largest education resource.

Online since 2004, K12 Academics has helped millions of families, students and educators **find the right school, college, camp, business and program in their community** — for every kind of learner.

### AFFORDABLE, ENGLISH PROGRAMS, AND FULL SCHOLARSHIPS

Kazakhstan is Central Asia's largest economy and a fast-growing academic hub, offering **affordable tuition, English-taught programs (with fully-funded scholarships at Nazarbayev University), and a major English-medium MBBS/MD route**. Al-Farabi Kazakh National University ranks #1 in Central Asia. Non-EU students get a **C9 student visa** via a university invitation. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

**General guidance, not legal or immigration advice.** Kazakh rules, tuition, and funds change (and medical-degree recognition varies). The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with the Study in Kazakhstan portal, your university, and the Kazakh mission**.

1

STEP 01 OF 10

# Understand Why Students Choose Kazakhstan

WHAT TO KNOW

Kazakhstan offers **affordable tuition, English-taught programs, fully-funded scholarships (Nazarbayev University), a major English-medium MBBS/MD route, and a crossroads-of-Europe-and-Asia setting** — with rapidly growing international enrollment.

BY THE NUMBERS

| Affordable | Full scholarships | MBBS/MD |
|---|---|---|
| + English programs | Nazarbayev | English-medium |

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Kazakhstan's **affordability, English options, and scholarships** against learning some Russian for daily life — for funded study or affordable medicine, it's a strong Central Asian choice.

GOOD TO KNOW

**Nazarbayev University** offers fully-funded scholarships (tuition, accommodation, living allowance) — worth targeting if you qualify.

2

STEP 02 OF 10

# Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

Leaders include **Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU — #1 in Central Asia, Almaty)**, the English-medium research-focused **Nazarbayev University (Astana)**, **L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University**, **KIMEP** (English, business), and **Asfendiyarov Kazakh National Medical University**. Apply directly or via the **Study in Kazakhstan portal**.

BY THE NUMBERS

| Al-Farabi (KazNU) | Nazarbayev | KIMEP / medical |
|---|---|---|
| #1 Central Asia | English, research | + others |

HOW TO HELP

Choose by field — Nazarbayev/KIMEP for English-taught study, KazNU for breadth, Asfendiyarov for medicine — and apply directly or through the Study in Kazakhstan portal.

WATCH OUT

For medicine, confirm the university is **WHO/WDOMS-listed** and recognized where you'll practice.

3

STEP 03 OF 10

# Get the C9 Student Visa

WHAT TO KNOW

After admission, your university provides an **invitation letter**, which you use to apply for a **C9 student visa** at a Kazakh embassy/consulate (fee usually around **$200**; an interview may be required). You'll show the invitation, proof of funds, and health insurance.

BY THE NUMBERS

| C9 visa | Invitation letter | ~$200 |
| --- | --- | --- |
| the student visa | + funds proof | typical fee |

HOW TO HELP

Get your university's **invitation letter**, then apply for the **C9 student visa** at a Kazakh mission with funds proof and insurance — an interview may be required.

GOOD TO KNOW

The **invitation letter** underpins the C9 visa — apply as soon as you're admitted.

4

STEP 04 OF 10

# Apply to Universities

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **directly to universities or via the Study in Kazakhstan portal (studyin.kz)**. Most universities open for the **September intake around June–August**; **Nazarbayev University runs its own cycle (February–March)**. English programs require English proof; some programs don't.

BY THE NUMBERS

| Apply directly / portal | June–August | Nazarbayev |
|---|---|---|
| studyin.kz | most universities | Feb–March |

HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly or via studyin.kz** by the intake deadlines (June–August for most; Feb–March for Nazarbayev), with English proof for English programs.

GOOD TO KNOW

Some programs need **no English test**; English-taught programs (Nazarbayev, KIMEP) require TOEFL/IELTS — check your program.

5

STEP 05 OF 10

# Plan for Tuition & Scholarships

WHAT TO KNOW

Tuition is **affordable**: roughly **$1,500–5,000/year** at public universities. **Nazarbayev University** offers fully-funded scholarships (tuition, accommodation, living allowance); KIMEP, KazNU, and others offer **merit-based partial-to-full waivers**. Some bilateral agreements (e.g., with India, China) also fund students.

BY THE NUMBERS

| Tuition | Nazarbayev | Merit waivers |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ~$1,500–5,000/yr | fully funded | KIMEP, KazNU |

HOW TO HELP

Budget the **affordable tuition**, and pursue Nazarbayev's full scholarships or merit waivers at KIMEP/KazNU — plus any bilateral-agreement funding.

GOOD TO KNOW

Beyond Nazarbayev, universities like **KIMEP offer up to 100% merit-based tuition coverage** — apply early with strong academics.

6

STEP 06 OF 10

# Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

For the visa you show **proof of funds** (commonly around **$3,000**) covering tuition and living, plus **health insurance**. Living costs are very low ($200–500/month; hostels $50–150/month). Confirm the exact amount with the Kazakh mission.

BY THE NUMBERS

| Funds | Insurance | Low living |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ~$3,000 (proof) | required | $200–500/mo |

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds (~$3,000)** and health insurance — living costs are very low, so budgeting is manageable; confirm specifics with the mission.

GOOD TO KNOW

Confirm the **exact funds figure** with the Kazakh mission — it varies by nationality and program.

7

STEP 07 OF 10

# Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

Many programs are taught in **English** (Nazarbayev, KIMEP, and others; medicine widely in English), proven via **TOEFL/IELTS**. Others are in **Russian or Kazakh**. Even in English programs, some Russian greatly helps daily life and clinical work.

BY THE NUMBERS

| English | Russian/Kazakh | Some Russian |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Nazarbayev, KIMEP, medicine | other programs | helps daily life |

HOW TO HELP

Confirm your program's language — choose an **English-taught program** (TOEFL/IELTS) or prepare Russian/Kazakh — and pick up some Russian for daily life.

GOOD TO KNOW

Even in English programs, **some Russian markedly helps** daily life (and clinical rotations in medicine).

8

STEP 08 OF 10

# Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After arriving, complete your **registration, arrange hostel or private housing, and set up banking and insurance**. Hostels are very cheap ($50–150/month); most international students are based in **Almaty or Astana**. Winters are cold — pack accordingly.

BY THE NUMBERS

| Registration | Hostels | Cities |
| --- | --- | --- |
| on arrival | $50–150/month | Almaty, Astana |

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **registration, hostel/housing, banking, insurance** — and settle into Almaty or Astana; hostels are very affordable.

GOOD TO KNOW

University **hostels are very cheap ($50–150/month)** — a real saving; pack for cold winters.

9

STEP 09 OF 10

# Understand Work Rules

WHAT TO KNOW

Kazakhstan's legislation **allows international students to work part-time** while studying, which can help cover living costs — but rules vary by program and visa type, so **confirm your specific conditions** before taking a job.

BY THE NUMBERS

| Work | Helps | Confirm |
| --- | --- | --- |
| part-time allowed | cover living costs | your visa conditions |

HOW TO HELP

You may **work part-time** under Kazakh law (useful for living costs) — but confirm your specific visa/program conditions before starting any job.

GOOD TO KNOW

Work rules **vary by program and visa type** — check your specific conditions with your university and immigration.

10 STEP 10 OF 10

# Thrive & Work After Study

## WHAT TO KNOW

Kazakhstan's **energy, technology, and finance sectors**, and its crossroads location, offer regional opportunities. For medical graduates, **verify recognition and pass the licensing exam** where you'll practice. Confirm the current post-study work pathway if you want to stay.

## BY THE NUMBERS

| Energy, tech, finance | Medicine | Post-study |
|---|---|---|
| regional roles | verify recognition | confirm pathway |

## HOW TO HELP

Use Kazakhstan's **energy/tech/finance sectors** and regional links, verify medical recognition/licensing where relevant, and confirm the current post-study work pathway.

## WATCH OUT

For medicine, **verify recognition and pass your target country's licensing exam** — the essential step to practice.

QUICK REFERENCE

# Studying in Kazakhstan: The Essentials

A snapshot — figures and recognition vary, so confirm with the Study in Kazakhstan portal, your university, and the Kazakh mission.

### The system

Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (#1 in Central Asia), Nazarbayev University (English, research), L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, KIMEP (English, business), and Asfendiyarov Kazakh National Medical University; apply directly or via studyin.kz.

### The visa

After admission, the university issues an invitation letter; you apply for a C9 student visa at a Kazakh mission (fee ~$200; an interview may be required) with proof of funds and insurance.

### Tuition & scholarships

~$1,500–5,000/year at public universities; Nazarbayev University fully funds scholarships (tuition, accommodation, allowance); KIMEP/KazNU merit waivers; some bilateral-agreement funding.

### Money & language

Prove ~$3,000 plus insurance (living costs low, $200–500/month); English programs (Nazarbayev, KIMEP, medicine; TOEFL/IELTS) or Russian/Kazakh; students may work part-time.

### After study

Energy, tech, and finance sectors offer regional opportunities; medical graduates must verify recognition and pass the licensing exam where they'll practice; confirm the post-study work pathway.

YOUR KAZAKHSTAN JOURNEY STARTS HERE

# Find Your Community.

Explore our other Studying in [Country] guides, Top Universities by Country, and country guides — among **1,297 free resources**.

**tools.k12academics.com →**

K12 ACADEMICS

k12academics.com
© 2004–2026 K12 Academics