STUDENT SELECTION POLICY AND GUIDELINES

for the Study Arizona Program at the University of Arizona (Fall 2026)

1. General Provisions

The purpose of this selection process is to identify the 30 most qualified students enrolled in the Dual Degree program of M. Kozybayev North Kazakhstan University (hereinafter - NKU) and the University of Arizona (hereinafter – U of A) to participate in a one-semester exchange program (Study Arizona) at U of A. The selection is based on the principles of transparency, academic integrity, and an equitable distribution of quotas across educational programs.

2. Program Quotas

The total number of available slots (30) is distributed equally among three key academic tracks (10 slots each):

- Biotechnology (NKU) / Applied Biotechnology (U of A) – 10 slots.
- Information Systems in Management (NKU) / Information Science: Data Science (U of A) – 10 slots.
- Primary Education and Inclusive Practice (NKU), Special Pedagogy and Inclusive Practice (NKU), Psychology in Education (NKU) / Mild to Moderate Disabilities (U of A) – 10 slots.

3. Evaluation Criteria (100-point scale)

Student rankings are determined by the cumulative score across the following four indicators:

1. **Academic Performance (GPA) (30 points)** – This includes the GPA from both universities. Students must have a minimum 2.0 GPA from U of A and a minimum 2.0 GPA from NKU. The current GPA at the time of the student selection process is taken into account.

NKU GPA	Points	U of A GPA	Points
4.0	15	**4.0**	15
3.9	14	**3.9**	14
3.8	13	**3.8**	13
3.7	12	**3.7**	12
3.6	11	**3.6**	11

3.5	10	**3.5**	10
3.4	9	**3.4**	9
3.3	8	**3.3**	8
3.2	7	**3.2**	7
3.1	6	**3.1**	6
3.0	5	**3.0**	5
2.9	4	**2.9**	4
2.8	3	**2.8**	3
2.7	2	**2.7**	2
2.6	1	**2.6**	1
From 2.5 to 2.0	0	**From 2.5 to 2.0**	0

2. **Portfolio (20 points)** – The portfolio is limited to university-level experiences and activities in the following areas:
    - **Research activities:** publications in scientific journals, participation in conferences, patents, and awards from academic olympiads.
    - **Community engagement:** participation in international and national competitions, awards from national contests, organization of and participation in volunteer activities, public speaking, participation in roundtables, briefings, and meetings with public figures at the university or regional level, performances in university cultural events, ambassador programs, and involvement in university career orientation and recruitment activities.
    - **Professional experience and practice:** confirmed participation in specialized internships, projects, or summer schools.

The portfolio must be accompanied by an analytical statement (no more than one A4 page of typed text) describing the applicant's achievements and results in the specified areas. All supporting documents confirming the stated achievements (diplomas, certificates, copies of published articles, etc.) must be attached to the portfolio.

The portfolio is evaluated by a committee based on the relevance, quality, and significance of the applicant's academic, professional, research, and extracurricular achievements, as well as the applicant's ability to clearly present and reflect on these experiences in the analytical statement. The

portfolio is assessed jointly by both partner institutions. The total score of 20 points is divided equally: 10 points (U of A committee members) and 10 points (NKU committee members). Each side evaluates the portfolio independently. The final score is calculated as the sum of the points awarded by both institutions.

3. **Motivational Essay (in English and without AI usage, at least 300 words) (30 points)** – Evaluated by a committee based on the clarity of goals, justification for the program choice, and the quality of argumentation. Goals should include what students hope to gain from the Study Arizona experience and what opportunities they aspire to take advantage of while they are in Arizona. Students are encouraged to reflect on how their participation would contribute to a diverse and inclusive cohort experience or how they would bring a distinctive perspective to the program. The essay is assessed jointly by both partner institutions. The total score of 30 points is divided equally: 15 points (U of A committee members) and 15 points (NKU committee members). Each side evaluates the essay independently. The final score is calculated as the sum of the points awarded by both institutions.
4. **Instructor Discretion (20 points)** – evaluation based on specific assignments, class participation, engagement during office hours, and overall academic performance. Each side independently evaluates the student within its academic context, ensuring a balanced and comprehensive assessment.
    - **10 points (U of A instructor):** Assigned based on the student's performance in courses delivered or supervised by U of A faculty. This includes evaluation of assignments, level of engagement, academic initiative, and interaction during office hours.
    - **10 points (NKU instructor):** Assigned based on the student's performance in courses delivered by NKU faculty. This includes assessment of coursework, participation in class activities, consistency of effort, and overall academic conduct.

4. Eligibility Requirements

- No current academic deficiencies.

- A clean disciplinary record (no sanctions).
- A valid international passport (or a formal commitment to obtain one as soon as possible).

5. Selection Procedure

- **Application Submission:** Students submit a complete application package (portfolio + essay) through a specially designated application form https://forms.gle/VWvsjFvRYuzsXjdu9. The application deadlines are communicated to students through official announcements, electronic communication, verbal notification, and other available means of communication.
- **Ranking:** An independent ranking list is generated for each of the three groups.
- **Final Approval:** The top 10 students from each group are recommended for enrollment.
- **Waitlist:** Students who follow the top 10 in their respective rankings are placed on a waitlist in case any primary candidates withdraw or become unable to participate for other reasons.
- **Selection Committee:**
  - NKU administrators and instructors
    - **Asset Zhanissov** – Executive Director, International Campus
    - **Konstantin Zhadan** – Deputy Executive Director for Academic Affairs, International Campus
    - **Albina Bunina** – Location Manager, International Campus
    - **Yuliya Byzova** – Associate Professor, Biotechnology Program Coordinator, International Campus
    - **Vladislav Semenyuk** – Senior Lecturer, Information Systems in Management Program Coordinator, International Campus
    - **Beinegul Bekbolatova** – Senior Lecturer, Primary Education and Inclusive Practice, Special Pedagogy and Inclusive

Practice, Psychology in Education Programs Coordinator, International Campus

- The U of A administrators and instructors
  - **Michael McKisson**, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs, College of Information Science
  - **Samantha Orchard**, Professor of Practice, School of Plant Sciences
  - **Toni Sparks**, Director, International Programs, Department of Disability and Psychoeducational Studies

These policies and guidelines were developed and approved by the Joint Oversight Committee.

M. Kozybayev North Kazakhstan University	**The University of Arizona**
Mansur Alimkhanov _____	Enrique M. Salazar _____
Asset Zhanissov _____	Charlotte MacInnis Charlotte MacInnis
Konstantin Zhadan _____	Min Zhou min zhou