

“Kenzhegali Sagadiyev University of International Business” LLP

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No. 669 dated 25 September 2026

Information Letter

Dear Colleagues,

The Professional Development Center of Kenzhegali Sagadiyev University of International Business (UIB) invites faculty members, doctoral students, master's students and early-career researchers from your university to participate in the **“Research Design Intensive”** course.

This is a five-day practical program for researchers in the social sciences. Participants progress from a research question to a well-justified research design that addresses ethical considerations and can be presented to a research supervisor, dissertation council or grant committee.

Speaker

Asel Kulyntaevna Izekenova, PhD, Associate Professor at Kenzhegali Sagadiyev University of International Business; UN ESCAP expert on population ageing (ageing studies); visiting scholar under the Bolashak “500 Scientists” program (Michigan State University, USA).

Organizational Information

Dates: 23-27 November 2026

Time: daily, 15:00-18:00

Format: online, five days

Participation fee: KZT 30,000 per participant

Upon completion, participants receive a professional development certificate for 72 hours, including independent study.

An on-site course at your university may also be arranged, provided that a group of at least 20 participants is formed (in Almaty).

The course program is attached to this letter.

Contact Information

To enroll in the course and reserve a place, please contact:

+7 778 929 88 59 - Aigerim Yerbolatkyzy.

Please bring this information to the attention of interested staff members and students at your university.

Yours sincerely,

Vice-Rector for Research K. O. Nurgaliyeva

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JSC “Halyk Bank of Kazakhstan” | BIC HSBKZKX | KBe 17

Format: online, Microsoft Teams.

Duration: 23-27 November 2026, three hours daily (15:00-18:00); total program workload: 72 hours.

Target audience: faculty members, doctoral students, master's students and early-career researchers in the social sciences.

Speaker: Asel Kulyntayeva Izekenova, PhD, Associate Professor at Kenzhekali Sagadiyev University of International Business; UN ESCAP expert on population ageing (ageing studies); visiting scholar under the Bolashak "500 Scientists" program (Michigan State University, USA).

Document issued upon completion: professional development certificate (72 hours).

Course Program "Research Design Intensive"

Date	Topic	Key Questions
23.11.2026	Research design fundamentals and literature review	• Research paradigms: positivism, constructivism and pragmatism, and their influence on the choice of design. • Formulating a clear and workable research question. • Systematic literature search strategy: databases, keywords and selection criteria. • Agentic (AI-assisted) literature search and synthesis; checking results for hallucinations and fabricated citations. • Mapping existing studies according to their research design. • Identifying the research gap.
24.11.2026	Quantitative research design	• Experimental and quasi-experimental designs. • Survey designs: cross-sectional and longitudinal. • Sampling techniques and determining the required sample size. • Operationalization and measurement of variables. • Development and validation of research instruments (questionnaires and scales), reliability and validity. • Synthetic and AI-generated data: acceptable use and risks of bias.
25.11.2026	Qualitative research design	• Case studies, ethnography, grounded theory and phenomenology. • Developing interview guides and observation protocols. • Participant selection strategies and data saturation. • Ensuring trustworthiness: triangulation, member checking and an audit trail. • Researcher reflexivity and positionality in relation to the phenomenon studied.

Course Program “Research Design Intensive”

Date	Topic	Key Questions
26.11.2026	Mixed methods research	• When and why to combine quantitative and qualitative methods. • Main designs: convergent, explanatory sequential and exploratory sequential. • Points of integration of quantitative and qualitative data. • Justifying the final research design to a supervisor or committee.
27.11.2026	Ethics, responsible AI use and preparation of the research paper	• Ethics review fundamentals: informed consent, confidentiality and working with vulnerable groups. • Institutional and publisher policies on AI use: permitted practices, disclosure requirements and authorship issues. • Writing an AI usage disclosure section. • Assessing research feasibility and planning pilot testing. • Writing the methodology section: structure, academic style and common mistakes.