

Dear Samat Uralbayev,

It is my pleasure to extend a visiting scholar invitation to you at the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) at the University of Minnesota. While at the University of Minnesota you will be a J-1 scholar in our *Research, Pedagogy, and Leadership Program* within the scientific area of interest on International relations from August 1st, 2023 through June 30th, 2024. The program is designed as an effective and structured visiting scholar program that supports international scholars in building knowledge and capacity in research methods, innovative teaching approaches, and academic leadership within the framework of “Internship for 500 scholars.”

It is our understanding that you will receive financial support through Kazakhstan’s government fellowship and your own personal funds. The support you receive should cover all costs associated with the *Research, Pedagogy, and Leadership Program (RPL)*, and other expenses during your stay at the University of Minnesota including health insurance, housing, sustenance, and transportation. As a RPL program participant you will have the opportunity to attend all RPL program activities and additional public seminars, workshops and other professional and social activities offered by the University of Minnesota. As your host college, CEHD will provide you with working space, access to internet and libraries, and staff support during your stay.

The University requires all J-1 international scholars to purchase health insurance. You must purchase the Student Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) for international scholars. Coverage under the SHBP is guaranteed for incoming J-1 scholars from the day they arrive at the University of Minnesota. Contact the Office of Student Health Benefits for more information about this plan (<https://shb.umn.edu/students-and-scholars/shbp-eligibility>).

Cost of the Research, Pedagogy, and Leadership Program:

CEHD campus fees: \$2,640

Academic programming and Program Administration: \$13,710

Faculty Coordination: \$5,000

Materials: \$800

Total: \$22,150

Cost not included: Required UMN international scholar medical insurance \$305/month (2022 rate), textbooks, housing, and living expenses.

I look forward to welcoming you to our program at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

Sincerely,



Marina B. Aleixo, PhD

Director, International Initiatives and Relations

College of Education and Human Development

Research, Pedagogy, and Leadership Program (RPL)

1. Full name

Samat Uralbayev

2. Host country

Unites States

3. The name of the host organization

College of Education and Human Development – University of Minnesota
178 Pillsbury Drive SE
Minneapolis MN 55455

4. Duration

11 months: August 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

5. Scientific area of interest in accordance to the list of priority areas for scientific internships (list)

Scientific area of interest: International relations
Visiting scholars will be matched one-to-one with faculty experts in their field of study.

6. The topic of scientific research in the chosen scientific area

Rethinking China's role, presence, and perception in Central Asian region

7. Relevance and novelty of the scientific research

In response to Kazakhstan's call to build research capacity and enhance professional development of scholars and transform innovative scientific technologies, the College of Education and Human Development of the University of Minnesota is pleased to provide an

effective and structured visiting scholar program that supports international scholars from Kazakhstan in building knowledge and capacity in research methods, innovative teaching approaches, and academic leadership. Research capacity building is an enduring challenge that has been at the forefront of governments and international organizations' attention since the 1980s. Studies particularly highlighted the critical role of university faculty as knowledge workers. Despite the discourse of national competitiveness, King (2011) argues that global discourse continues to rely heavily on an elite group of scholars dominated by Western control and bias. In response to these critical issues, CEHD's Research, Pedagogy, and Leadership program focuses on building research capacity and leadership skills of scholars from Kazakhstan within the framework of Kazakhstan's 500 Scholars International Scholarship.

The program employs several innovative approaches to successfully build the local research capacity of scholars including:

- (1) 1:1 faculty mentorship and collaboration in the scientific area of interest;
- (2) employment of an innovative approach designed as a cohort model with individualized experiences. This innovative model features interdisciplinary approaches that provide an opportunity for scholars from the fields of social sciences, human sciences, and education to exchange knowledge and ideas across disciplines and experiences;
- (3) guided working sessions to support theory to practice and sense-making of new ideas and skills in the context of Kazakhstan.

Our model is based on our successful implementation of the pilot program in 2022 with 14 visiting scholars from 10 different educational institutions across various regions of Kazakhstan.

Founded in 1851 as a public land-grant university, the **University of Minnesota** is widely recognized as one of the top ten public research institutions in the country. The University ranks 10th among public universities in research spending, with more than \$1 billion annually. The University's mission, carried out throughout the state, is threefold: research and discovery, teaching and learning, and outreach and public service. The main campus is in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul and there are four coordinate campuses, Crookston, Duluth, Morris, and Rochester, as well as fifteen regional extension offices. The University has eighteen colleges and professional schools, and is one of only five universities in the country with schools of engineering, medicine and veterinary medicine, law, and agriculture on a single campus. It is one of the largest universities in the U.S. with more than 51,000 students and 3,900 faculty in the Twin Cities campus alone, and is one of the state's largest employers.

The **College of Education and Human Development (CEHD)** promotes and sustains an active research and learning environment. CEHD comprises seven academic departments, three college-wide research centers, and more than a dozen departmental centers in the curricular, organizational, and research aspects of education and human development. CEHD enrolled over 4,100 students in fall 2020, and granted 1,784 degrees in the 2018-19 academic year. The college is home to over 180 faculty members and 16 endowed chairs and professorships, and 260 CEHD professionals are directly involved in research. Collegiate investment in research takes several forms, including pre-award proposal development assistance, post-award sponsored project management, training in the responsible conduct of research, internal seed funding awards, and support for strategic research initiatives. CEHD's Research Methodology Consulting Center

(RMCC) supports researchers in study design, statistical modeling, and statistical analysis. Departments and centers regularly host research lectures and symposia, as well as offer opportunities for collaborative work. In fiscal year 2020, the college was awarded over \$39.9 million in externally funded research.

CEHD is regularly placed high on the U.S. News & World Report's Best Graduate School annual ranking. In 2022, CEHD was ranked 12th best public education graduate school in the nation. In *U.S. News & World Report's* entire list of 277 schools, CEHD placed 19th overall. Rankings are based on evaluating a school's research activity, academic excellence of its entering students, faculty resources, and opinions on program quality from education school deans and school hiring professionals. As for the world university rankings the University of Minnesota Twin Cities is the 40th in 2021 Academic Ranking of World Universities, 86th in 2021 Times Higher Education.

The University of Minnesota's College of Education and Human Development is prepared to offer the *Research, Pedagogy, and Leadership Program* to support the effective integration and capacity building of fellows during their visiting scholar program.

8. Aim

Designed as a cohort model with individualized experiences, each scholar will be paired with one faculty during their time on campus according to their specialty and research interests. As a group they will participate in organized seminars, workshops, field experiences, and projects and will work one-one-one with the assigned faculty mentor to develop an individualized research plan. Additionally, visiting scholars will prepare and present their research plan.

Upon successful completion of the program, scholars will:

- Acquire a more nuanced understanding of US higher education system through lectures from educational experts and visits to various types of higher education institutions;
- Build personal communication, networking and leadership skills;
- Build successful publication skills including the development of strategies for successful conference proposal submission, finding the right journal in their field of interest, and preparing manuscript for publication;
- Develop strategies for successful grant-proposal writing;
- Build professional networks in the US higher education institutions;
- Enhance quantitative and qualitative research skills in Social sciences and Education, including research ethics and data analysis;
- Develop strategies for interdisciplinary research collaboration;
- Enhance skills in using Qualtrics and Nvivo software for research;
- Develop skills in innovative teaching methods including sticky teaching, reflective teaching, Universal design, and technology integration;
- Develop nuanced understanding of academic leadership theory and practice;
- Develop short term and long term individual research plan;

- Develop individual action plan for integration in home institution;

In addition, scholars will have the opportunity to present their work to a wider community of the University Minnesota such as:

- Presentation of research plan and action plan in a public forum;
- Presentation on the topic of their research;
- Poster presentation on a comparative analysis of US and Kazakhstan higher education

9. Tasks

- 1:1 faculty mentorship and collaboration in field of study;
- Meetings guided by academic experts designed to support scholars in navigating US higher education, integrate theory to practice, networking;
- Seminars focused on building research and leadership skills and innovative teaching approaches;
- Directed study: Individualized support on development and preparation of one research plan;
- Off campus site visits to collaborating university partners and educational institutions to extend learning environment and gain different perspectives.

10. Steps of internship program

- 10 hours of Introduction to US Higher Education System
- 8 hours of workshops on Communication, Networking, and Publications
- 21 hours of Research methods
- 21 hours of Innovative teaching approaches
- 15 hours of Leadership
- 40 hours of guided working sessions to support theory to practice
- Regular meetings with host faculty
- Class observations
- Off campus site visits
- Individual research time
- Writing the draft of an academic article to be peer-reviewed by host faculty
- Submission and presentation of final research plan and action plan
- Certificate of completion

11. The object of research topic

Five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) and their current positions toward China, Chinese presence in the region and perception of China among Central Asian population after the pandemic

12. Methods of research topic

Scholars will conduct research on their scientific area of interest, develop research problem and research questions, and develop the research methodology that fits the research problem and questions including qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods

The program will provide support in framing the research methodology of the topic and offer workshops and seminars on such topics as:

- Qualitative research design including data collection and data analysis;
- Quantitative research design including data collection and data analysis;
- Mixed methods design;
- Survey Design;
- Ethics of research with human subjects

13. Necessary material and technical resources

CEHD will provide class materials electronically on the program's canvas platform. Scholars will be asked to purchase textbooks (if needed). Scholars will be issued UMN ID cards and email and will have access to library facilities and Wi-Fi on campus. Scholars are encouraged to bring their own laptop for use during the program. Scholars will also have access to public events, workshops, and seminars organized on campus.

Scholars will have access to software resources available in CEHD including statistical packages data analysis tools. In addition, scholars will be able to use software consultation services and librarian services.

14. Expected results according to the topic of research

- Participated in all academic workshops and seminars organized by the program;
- Participated in all off campus site visits organized by the program;
- Observed classes of UMN faculty;
- Submitted all reading, writing, and presentation assignments;
- Actively engaged in all class discussions and group work;
- Submitted a research plan and action plan;
- Presented a research plan and action plan

Scholars will participate in at least 3 public academic events offered by the university. University of Minnesota colleges and departments offer several academic opportunities, including trainings, lectures, speaker series, and discussion forums throughout the academic year. To support scholars' integration into campus life we expect their participation in these events throughout their time on campus.

Upon successful completion of the program, scholars will receive:

- Certificate of completion

15. Modules

All scholars will have access to UMN libraries in online and offline format. The University of Minnesota Libraries is the library system of the University of Minnesota Twin cities campus, operating at 13 facilities in and around Minneapolis-Saint Paul. It has over 7.7 million volumes and 119,000 serial titles that are collected, maintained, and made accessible. The UMN library system is the 17th largest academic library in North America and the 20th largest library in the USA.

Scholars will attend modules on research methods, innovative teaching approaches, academic leadership, research ethics, academic writing and publications, and quantitative and qualitative research design including selection of research approach, formation of research topic, planning and analysis of data, and formation of conclusions (see plan and timeline for details). In addition, scholars will receive individualized support from host faculty and program staff in working on their individual research topic.

Research, Pedagogy, and Leadership Program Plan and Timeline

Name of events	Duration	Activities/used technologies and methods for research	The form of reporting
Settling into University of Minnesota	Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Program orientation - Campus tour - Library resources and research databases - Navigating canvas site - Navigating Medical insurance 	
Introduction to US higher education system	Month 1 (August)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lectures from educational experts - Visits to various higher education institutions (e.g., community colleges, private liberal arts college, technical colleges) 	

<p>Communication, publication, and networking skills</p>	<p>Months 2-3 (September-October)</p>	<p>Biweekly sessions designed to build personal communication, publication, and networking, and leadership skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Academic writing: tips for successful international conference proposal submission - Finding the right journal to publish in your field of interest - Preparing manuscripts for publication - Successful networking in academic spaces 	<p>Agenda for first faculty meeting</p> <p>Networking plan for months 3-11</p> <p>Mapping of potential interdisciplinary collaboration</p> <p>Conferences in specific research field</p>
<p>Research and Pedagogy</p>	<p>Month 2-5 (September-December)</p>	<p>Biweekly working sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guided working sessions to support theory to practice - Support with RPL assignments - Making sense of RPL in the Kazakhstan context <p>Biweekly Seminars:</p> <p><i>Research methods</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research methodology in Social Sciences and Education - Research ethics - Quantitative and Qualitative Data Analysis - Understanding bias in research - Teamwork: Strategies for interdisciplinary research collaboration - Grant-proposal writing - Introduction to Qualtrics - Introduction to NVivo <p><i>Innovative teaching methods</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sticky teaching - Reflective teaching - Universal design for learning - Student motivation: Theory and practice - Best practices for technology integration in resource limited environments 	<p>Weekly reflection assignments</p> <p>Weekly Readings</p> <p>Research methods integration final assignment</p> <p>Innovative teaching approaches integration final assignment</p> <p>Institutional profile</p> <p>Elevator speech and Presentations</p> <p>Biweekly progress reports</p> <p>Poster presentation on a comparative analysis of US and Kazakhstan higher education</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Treks professional development program: Integration of a variety of approaches and academic technologies into the development of remote, blended, online, or in-person courses and associated projects <p>Monthly meetings with faculty mentor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focused on developing individual research plan <p>Work on individual research agenda</p>	
Leadership	Months 6-10 (January-May)	<p>Biweekly working sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guided working sessions to support theory to practice - Support with RPL assignments - Making sense of RPL in the Kazakhstan context <p>Monthly seminars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Academic leadership: Theory and practice - Academics as leaders: practical guide to managing teaching, research, and administrative work in higher education - Public speaking and effective research presentation - Advising for masters/doctoral students and thesis supervision <p>Monthly meetings with faculty mentor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focused on developing individual research plan <p>CEHD Research Day participation</p>	<p>Monthly reflection assignments</p> <p>Monthly Readings</p> <p>Leadership theory and practice integration final assignment</p> <p>Poster for CEHD Research Day</p>

	Month 11 (June)	Biweekly working sessions: - Final written research plan - Action plan for RPL integration in home institution - Lessons learned report - Program evaluation	Present research plan and action plan
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I look forward to welcoming you to our program at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus.

Sincerely,



Marina B. Aleixo, PhD
Director, International Initiatives and Relations
College of Education and Human Development
University of Minnesota Twin cities

«CONFIRMED»
Kunanbayeva S.S. Chairman of the Board - Rector of JSC«Kazakh Ablai Khan University of International Relations and World Languages»