

International School of Economics KAZGUU 2022/2023 Achievements Report

The 2022-2023 academic year has come to an end, and we would like to sum up its results:

As of June 2023, the ISE KAZGUU is represented by:

- 1527 students
 - including 39 international students representing 12 countries
 - 10 academic programs
 - 60+ lecturers
 - 14 administrators.
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- For the first time in ISE history, we have a cohort of students graduating in “IT in Business”, “Marketing” and “International Relations” programs.
 - Three students of “IT in Business” program - *Assel Muratova*, *Dilyara Tulubayeva*, and *Nazerke Tanibergen* - have successfully accomplished a dual degree program with Hof University of Applied Sciences (Germany).
 - *Nurbolat Sagynganov* has completed his studies in three years and became our first “International Relations” alumnus.
 - 61% of this year’s ISE graduates have already received their job offers and 48% already work. Every third graduate of the “Finance”, “Accounting” and “Economics” programs got a job offer from at least one of the Big4 companies. Other large employer-companies of this year’s graduates include KazMunayGaz, AIFC, Kazakhstan Temir Zholy, Samruk-Kazyna, Integra Construction KZ, Sheraton Astana Hotel, Ritz Carlton, St. Regis Astana, etc.
 - Six graduates of the MSc in Finance program have received CFA scholarships and four graduates of BBA in Finance and BBA in Accounting programs have signed up for the ACCA Accelerate.
 - 53 graduating Bachelor students in addition to their Major degree certificates are awarded Minor degree certificates in HRM, Marketing, Finance, IT, Management Accounting, Business and Law, and IR.
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- Another important ingredient of excellent academic quality is the teaching staff. We consistently work on increasing the number of faculty members who are Ph.D. degree holders or approaching their Ph.D. defense at recognized world-class universities and are actively involved in research. This year several such colleagues have joined our team: *Dr. Elmira Mynbayeva* (Ph.D. in Finance, Aberdeen University, UK), *Dr. Daliya Kaskirbayeva* (Ph.D. in Economics, Leeds University, UK), *Timur Kogabayev* (Ph.D. Candidate in Business and Management, University of Tartu, Estonia). More such colleagues will join us in Fall 2023.
 - 21% of our instructors are holders/candidates of internationally recognized professional certifications (ACCA, CFA, CIPD, HRCI).
 - Three colleagues - *Artur Utebayev*, *Arman Rakhimov*, and *Kamshat Saginbekova* – have accomplished their Ph.D. studies and defended their Ph.D. theses in world-recognized universities.
 - Over this year, our colleagues have published 15 research papers in international peer-reviewed and indexed journals, local peer-reviewed journals, and book chapters such as *Ageing Research Reviews*, *Asia Pacific Business Review*, *European Journal of Operational Research*, *Current Psychology*, etc. *Dr. Kamshat Saginbekova* contributed to the collective book “How the new EU Dual-Use Regulation could benefit third countries?” published by the University of Liege (Belgium) and *Dr. Bakhytzhon Kurmanov* wrote a chapter for the book “Transformation and Development in the OSCE region” published by OECD Academy in Bishkek.
 - The venues of the conference presentations done by our colleagues include Indiana University (*Dr. Bakhytzhon Kurmanov*), Nazarbayev University (*Assel Bitabarova* and *Dmitriy Melnikov*, Ph.D. Candidates), Young Researchers Alliance (*Dr. Daliya Kaskirbayeva*), Digital Technologies and law, Tatarstan (*Dr. Baurzhan Rakhmetov*), Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies (*Dr. Saule Kemelbayeva*).
 - During the year, Associate Professor and lecturer of Economics *Dr. Azat Aituar* fulfilled the research “Analysis of the effectiveness of import substitution and diversification policies”, a project funded by the National Bank of Kazakhstan.

- *Dr. Azat Aituar* also won a research grant from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. He will use advanced quantitative methods to investigate which institutions Kazakhstan's government should prioritize to improve its decision-making efficiency, transparency, and objectivity and ensure sustainable economic growth.
 - Two of our colleagues, lecturers in Finance and Economics, *Dr. Daliya Kaskyrbayeva* and *Dr. Elmira Mynbayeva*, joined the CERGE-EI Teaching Fellows program.
 - Last but not least, *Zhan-Tore Ayazbekov*, the Vice-Dean for Academic Support and Employment and the Head of the ISE Career Centre, won “Bolashaq” International Scholarship “500 internships for researchers” to accomplish the year-long course on academic management and leadership at Queen Mary University of London (UK).
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- Following our strategic goal to become a research-intensive institution, we organized a series of events aimed at the popularization of science among our students, younger colleagues, and general audience. One of them is the first ISE Student Research Conference which we devoted to the upcoming 30th anniversary of our university co-hosted by JSC “Institute of Economic Research” with more than 50 participants representing different universities and schools of the country.
 - A memorable event was the “Career in Science” talk show where our five promising researcher-colleagues shared their insights about research careers with our students.
 - We continued the Dean’s Lecture Series where our colleagues presented their ongoing and recently published research and “Let’s Talk Research” seminars where invited scholars taught the attendees various research skills such as research methodology, publishing strategies, etc.
 - In collaboration with Suleyman Demirel University Business School, we launched a joint pilot project “Teaching and Research Skills for Academic Excellence”. Faculty members from our universities delivered lectures and training workshops on critical thinking, academic writing, quantitative and qualitative research methods, as well as using LaTeX and data analysis methods in Python. The series of seminars was attended by around 100 participants.
 - Over the year, our colleagues and students organized more than 50 guest lectures from prominent speakers.
 - The ISE Career Centre organized 45 guest talks by industry professionals representing all areas of our specialization within the “A-Step to Graduate” program aimed at developing job market insights and skills in our students. This year the program was supported by our partner organizations and regular guests, such as Big4 companies, McKinsey & Company, KASE, the OSCE Program Office in Astana, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), the UN Resident Coordinator Office, other international organizations, public authorities and private companies.
 - Another important milestone our team successfully accomplished this year is Transnational Education Strategy Scoping Project funded by the British Council under the INTERLINKS Small Grants Program which we implemented in conjunction with Kent Business School (UK) and Suleyman Demirel University Business School. The purpose of this project was to scope the viability of establishing a university-based hub for entrepreneurship within the educational and co-curricular spaces.
 - With the SDU Business School, we also run an academic exchange program. We strongly believe that such joint experience benefits both institutions and our students’ community by exposing them to a new environment and enabling them to learn new perspectives.
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- This year, in cooperation and with support from the KAZGUU International Office, we launched the “Applied Diplomacy” course for our International Relations students, providing them with an exceptional opportunity to learn from and interact with senior diplomats who shared their insights and skills of managing international relations for years.
 - During the Spring semester, His Excellency, Ambassador of Austria to Kazakhstan *Dr. Willy Kempel* taught the “Introduction to EU Studies” course for International Relations students.
 - For the third year in a row, we were privileged to contribute to the Summer School on Comparative Regionalism organized by our partner institution University of Airlangga (Indonesia) and United Nations University – CRIS (Belgium), this time on-campus in Indonesia. The Summer School was attended by 80 students from 20 countries including our IR students *Zhaniya Bekshora*, *Dayana Kapassova*, *Nazym Umirzakova* whose trip was supported by the university, and other our students online

- This year we launched a new Minor in Strategic Trade Control and Sanctions designed in collaboration with our partner institution, the University of Liege (Belgium). The Minor aims to teach students such relevant topics as the efficiency of control systems, sanctions and their political and economic effects on targeted and third countries, anticipating risks and using the red flags to prevent violating the strategic trade control rules on international and national levels.
- An important priority for ISE is to develop data science and data-driven decision-making policy. For that, we launched the Data Science Minor and added a “Data Science” module to the BBA in Economics program.
- This year, for the first time we ran the data science for Economics course at the Master’s level and – together with CERGE-EI – the “Introduction to Data Science” course at the Bachelor’s level.
- This year we launched a joint course with Astana Hub “IT Startup Acceleration” where our students learned about all stages of IT Startup development: from idea generation to MVP. At the end of the course, our students presented their projects to the panel of judges, experienced professionals in the area of product development, blockchain, and the development of new ventures.
- This year our students gave us many reasons to be proud of their achievements. KAZGUU Case Club opened at the beginning of the year as a joint effort of a group of students led by third-year Economics student *Ruan Shokanov* and our Teaching professor *Zhan-Tore Ayazbekov*, Ph.D. Candidate. The KAZGUU Case Club seeks to build a strong community where the members can share their experiences, create professional networks and find mentors. The participants regularly meet to jointly discuss and solve business cases, allowing them to develop critical thinking, analytical skills, and effective communication. During the year, the community organized a number of events including the Case Championship at KAZGUU, and won competitions outside the university, such as KIMEP Case Club & PWC Championship, Case Key 2.0 & Tumar Group and AIESIC “Creative One” & Jusan Singularity competitions. Congratulations to the team and best of luck in their future endeavors!
- Ten ISE undergraduate students successfully participated in the student philosophical discussion at Nazarbayev University where our students were awarded as the “strongest thinkers”. The group was led by *Dmitriy Melnikov*, Ph.D. Candidate and Teaching Professor in Philosophy.
- There are many other achievements our students attained over this year, such as International Students Olympiads, conferences and volunteering in a number of events, a win in the Toxopoly game organized by EY by *Dzhanel Nurgaliyeva* and *Arshat Alash*, and many more.

On behalf of the ISE KAZGUU and the university management, we deeply thank everyone who contributed to our community this year and wish a new 2023/24 academic year to be even more successful and fruitful!