

## **Provisions of the Program of Research Internships in World Laboratories in 2018**

### **1. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 1.1. The research internship program initiated by the Shakhmardan Yessenov Science and Education Foundation (hereinafter referred to as the Foundation) for students who wish to pursue doctoral degree in world universities (hereinafter the Program), aims to identify, select, and support talented Kazakhstani students interested in science on a long-term basis.
- 1.2. Henceforth, the term Grant means a monetary payment of no more than 7 000 USD paid in Kazakh tenge at a rate on the day of payment, provided on a gratuitous basis to each of Grantees of this Program to undertake a research internship in a research laboratory in the world;
- 1.3. In our understanding, a Ph.D is a must for talented individuals to enable them to pursue scientific and research activities successfully. As such, initiating and rendering the present Program meets the Foundation's goals to form and enhance national pool of talented scientists;
- 1.4. The Program is carried out and financed by the Foundation;
- 1.5. This Program offers the opportunity for the top ten students shortlisted in the course of a two-stage competitive selection to earn a grant for a research internship in laboratories around the world in the summer of 2018;
- 1.6. The Program is open to sophomore and junior students majoring in engineering and natural sciences, and enrolled in universities of Kazakhstan and who are also citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan;

### **2. STAGES OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM:**

- 2.1. The Program is long-term and realized in several stages;
- 2.2. Stage I: Competitive selection of the Program participants. At this stage, we will select the best students who demonstrate:
  - 1) excellent knowledge on main subjects,
  - 2) a sound interest in further scientific activity,
  - 3) achievements in scientific activities (Olympiads, conferences, researches),
  - 4) a sufficient command of English;
- 2.3. Stage II: a preparatory stage and enrolling to the research internship placement. At this stage, the participants who have passed the competitive selection stage start with preparing and getting placements with the US laboratories:
  - 1) search for several potential suitable programs;
  - 2) compile necessary set of documents (i.e., essays, referral and recommendation letters, translations of scientific works, etc.);
  - 3) initiate and maintain contact (correspondence) with professors;
  - 4) await results from potential research labs;

At this stage, a team of the Program's consultants shall advise and assist the Program participants (please, see Article 5 of the present Provisions).

### **3. COMPETITIVE SELECTION OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS:**

#### **3.1 Requirements to the participants:**

- 1) Eligibility: (1) 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year bachelor students in one of the Kazakhstani universities, majoring in engineering and natural sciences, and (2) citizens of Kazakhstan;
- 2) Competitors must succeed on all main subjects with "excellent" and "good" marks of the current academic year. Data must be confirmed by the original and copy of the student's record book; and availability of recommendations from the President or Vice President of the student's institution;
- 3) Competitors must have achievements in the Olympiads and high school scientific projects as well as a high average score of their certificate of secondary education. Data must be confirmed with copies and originals of diplomas and certificates and its attachments;

- 4) Competitors must have a good command of the English language, that is, at least an intermediate level and above. In case a competitor cannot provide relevant certificates stating the language level, he/she will be given the opportunity to pass relevant tests;
- 5) Competitor must demonstrate strong interest in specific fields of science and provide relevant evidence to the Foundation, for example, his/her own scientific articles, materials, results of any research, etc.;
- 6) Moreover, Competitor has to show interest in pursuing a PhD and a desire to be engaged in scientific activity in the long-term. With respect to this, the Competitor will have to write an essay describing the justification of this choice.

3.2 Grantees of the 2017 Program are not eligible to apply for the 2018 Program.

### 3.3 The competition procedure:

Competition is held in two stages:

#### 1) Submitting Applications

- Students submit filled out Application to the Foundation till **10 December 2017**. The following documents must be provided:
  1. A copy of student's national ID;
  2. A copy of student's grades record (with all the examination periods);
  3. Copies of diplomas, certificates, scientific projects, etc.
  4. An essay on the subject: "I would like to receive a Ph.D because..."
  5. Recommendations of the University's President/ Vice-principal/ Research Advisor.

- Application and all the required documents must be sent to the Foundation's email: [info@yessenovfoundation.org](mailto:info@yessenovfoundation.org)

- At this stage, the selection is made based on the level of the student's academic progress, completeness of Application, availability of achievements, level of interest and reasons for his/her continuation and desire to be engaged in scientific activity.

#### 2) Interview/trainings:

- Students who submitted the application in timely manner and passed the first stage of selection will be invited for trainings/interview;
- Interview and the training are designed to explore applicants' personal qualities;
- Interview/training will take place on **10-20 January 2018**.

**3.4 Those who pass this competitive selection become the participants of the Program and move to the next Preparatory stage.**

## 4. PREPARATORY STAGE AND ENROLLMENT

4.1. The Program participants who have passed the Competitive selection have the opportunity to work with trainers and consultants of the Foundation to get necessary recommendations and information to enroll with one of laboratories' study placements programs;

4.2. Consultants of the Foundation conduct master classes and trainings on the following:

- joint search and selection of appropriate study placement programs;
- compiling and submitting relevant documents;
- correspondence with professors of universities and laboratories;
- general trainings on enhancing leadership skills, stress resistance, and communication skills;

4.3. In the course of this work, Program participants undertake to send the required documents and requests to enroll to research internships with laboratories around the world;

4.4. Following all of this work and in due time Program Participants shall report to the Foundation with their results on the process.

## **5. TEAM OF THE PROGRAM CONSULTANTS**

5.1. The team of the Program consultants consists of members of an initiative group of young scientists of Kazakhstan who are now working or studying in the USA or around the world;

5.2. Duties of the consultants:

- Timely provision of master classes for Program Participants;
- Carrying out not less than 5 (five) consultations for each Program Participant;
- Whenever possible, assistance and participation in process of submitting study placement applications by Participants;
- Consultants render only the consulting/advising help and do not fill out and/or write any forms, applications, essays for the Program participants, nor do they take any other actions which can jeopardize the process of the Program;

5.3. Consultants assist gratuitously on their own initiative;

5.4. The Foundation also has the right, both on paid and on a gratuitous basis, to engage trainers and psychologists for carrying out the corresponding trainings develop and enhance additional skills and knowledge of the Program participants.

## **6. COMPETITIVE SELECTION OF THE PROGRAM GRANTEES**

6.1. The Program participants who receive invitations from the laboratories for the research internship automatically become the participants of the final competitive selection to receive the Grant for the trip;

6.2. Grants will be provided to the 10 (ten) best participants who, in the course of preparation, prove themselves as the most effective, determined, and motivated students;

6.3. The decision on provision of Grant shall be made jointly (the Contest Committee) by the designated representatives of the Foundation, representatives of the Program consultants team, trainers, and experts;

6.4. Competition winners list, approved by the Foundation's Founder and agreed by the Contest Committee and the members of the Board of Trustees, is published officially on the Foundation's website;

6.5. The Foundation reserves the right to refuse the Grant without providing explanation the reason of such refusal.

## **7. PROVISION OF GRANT**

7.1. The grant is provided to the winners of the competition by a grant agreement;

7.2. The grant covers both travel and living expenses (accommodation and food) of the Program Participant for the research internship in the laboratory that agrees to host the winner;

7.3. The grant can be paid by mean of money wire to the Grantee's bank account;

7.4. The Grantee who has signed the grant agreement is obliged to meet the following terms and conditions of the Agreement:

- 1) to undertake the research internship in the prescribed form in compliance with the established rules of the host laboratory;
- 2) to deliver his/her work responsibly in the course of the research internship program;
- 3) to inform the Foundation on a regular basis on progress of the internship by means of providing relevant reports.

### **Additional information to the Provisions:**

1. A PhD is a scientific degree awarded to graduates of doctoral study programs in the western education system, and is an analogue of the domestic candidate of science. The degree has no practical relation to philosophy (only historical) and is awarded almost in all scientific areas, for example: the doctor of philosophy in literature or the doctor of philosophy in physics.
2. The research internship program is designed for the following purposes:

- to give the opportunity for students to enroll and complete internships in laboratories of leading world universities and scientific centers;
- to increase the level of preparation of domestic scientists by exposing them to qualitatively different conditions of studies at the world research laboratories.