International nonprofit focused on exchanges, professional training, and critical languages

Administering U.S. and foreign government sponsored exchanges

Researching language learning and overseas immersion

Advising U.S. and foreign governments on international education policy and practice
GLOBAL REACH

89K
ALUMNI WORLDWIDE

450
STAFF WORLDWIDE

85
COUNTRIES

30
OFFICES

Afghanistan
Albania
Argentina
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Belarus
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Brazil
Brunei
Bulgaria
Burma
Cambodia
Cameroon
China
Colombia
Croatia
Egypt
Estonia
Ethiopia
Gaza
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Israel
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kosovo
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Laos
Latvia
Lebanon
Liberia
Libya
Lithuania
Macedonia
Malaysia
Mali
Mexico
Moldova
Mongolia
Montenegro
Morocco
Mozambique
Nigeria
Oman
Palestinian Territories
Pakistan
Panama
Philippines
Poland
Qatar
Romania
Russia
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovakia
South Africa
South Korea
Suriname
Taiwan
Tajikistan
Tanzania
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Tunisia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Ukraine
United States
Uzbekistan
Vietnam
West Bank
Yemen
What We Do

- Professional Development
- Youth Exchanges
- Language Training
- Field Research
- Testing Systems and Assessment
- Educational Policy and Advising
OUR VISION

Why is Kazakhstan important to U.S. higher education?
What Central Asia Means to the United States

“One of the most important regions in the 21st century ... a pivotal region rich in energy, central in geography, and boundless in opportunity... a critical link that bridges East and West ... home to dozens of ethnicities and a multitude of religions ... [its recent] progress reflects the extraordinary international role Central Asia has to play in the coming years” – Joshua Walker & Kevin Kearney, The Diplomat, 16 September 2016
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U.S. National Security Education Program – Preferred Languages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Albanian</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Arabic (all dialects)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Bambara</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Bulgarian</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Zulu</strong></td>
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</table>
“Our programs partner with the governments, private sector, and people of Central Asia to expand trade and markets; enhance cooperation on energy and water; and improve governance and social services. Our regional programming supports the U.S. Government’s New Silk Road and C5+1 policy priorities to increase connectivity within the Central Asian region and between the economies and peoples of South and Central Asia — including Afghanistan — to foster greater stability and prosperity across the region.”
Central Asian Students to U.S.

- Kazakhstan
- Uzbekistan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan

Yearly Enrollment:
- 2007/08: 1456
- 2008/09: 1714
- 2009/10: 1936
- 2010/11: 1890
- 2011/12: 1938
- 2012/13: 1969
- 2013/14: 2012
- 2014/15: 2017
- 2015/16: 1935
- 2016/17: 1792
- 2017/18: 1865
Kazakhstan’s Economy

- $172 bln GDP
- 18.2 million people
- 16th largest oil producer in the world (after Norway)
- 30th largest natural gas producer in the world (after Venezuela)
- Top 10 grain producer, exports to 70 countries
- 2018 – new program for beef and cattle industry development
- 33% of world’s uranium production; 11% of global titanium production
- $15bln to support resource processing industry
“Dubai of Central Asia”

- Astana International Financial Centre
- DAMU – $12bln for SMEs
- Digital Kazakhstan – $1 bln
- $700m e-commerce market
- 4.4 GB average data consumption
- 65% have access to LTE
Opportunities for Texas-Kazakhstan Partnerships

• Joint research, publications
  • Oil and gas
  • Food production and processing
  • Agtech
• Certificate programs
  • Tourism management
  • LLM
• English-language capacity building
  • Applied linguistics
  • STEM education
  • In-service training for teachers
• Student mobility
  • PhD mentorship
  • Dual degrees
Challenges in U.S.-Kazakhstan Partnerships

**Problem:** U.S.-Kazakhstan partnerships face challenges because the motivations and incentives among faculty, students, and administrators are not well understood by each other.

**In Kazakhstan...**

- Internationalization is limited to student mobility programs.
- Faculty lack experience in driving international activity and partnerships.
- Ministry of Education “owns” the curriculum.
- Metrics focus on QS rankings, signing MoUs, numbers of students.
- Lack of exposure to U.S. study abroad models (short-term, summer, experiential learning).
- Lack of global visibility … “why won’t U.S. students come to Kazakhstan?”
- Low levels of English in STEM fields.
- Focus on dual-degree programs as a start.
- Experience with EU programs.
US-Kazakhstan University Partnerships Coaching Program

**Goal:** coach and support U.S. and Kazakhstani universities as they establish and sustain partnerships and internationalization on their campuses.

U.S.-Kazakhstan partnerships are still largely untapped, unexplored; eagerness to expand and evolve.

**Activities:**

- Survey of 18 Kazakhstani universities (Winter 2017/18)
- Workshop with five Kazakhstani universities (April 2018)
- Action Plans for partnerships (Summer 2018)
- Outreach to U.S. universities (Summer 2018)
- Internationalization Planning Guide (November-December 2018)
- Informational webinars (Fall 2018 – Spring 2019)
- Small grants for partnerships (January 2019)

Network of 40 Kazakhstan higher education institutions
What are the main reasons for driving internationalization? Select three. n=18

- Become more attractive to prospective students at home and abroad: 89% (Kazakhstan), 38% (US)
- Improve student preparedness on the global level: 72% (Kazakhstan), 71% (US)
- Raise international rankings and reputation: 72% (Kazakhstan), 9% (US)
- Attract international faculty and researchers: 44% (Kazakhstan), 5% (US)
- Contribute to international development initiatives: 39% (Kazakhstan), 12% (US)
- Diversify students, faculty, administration: 56% (Kazakhstan), 28% (US)
- Improve international institutional accreditation: 17% (Kazakhstan), 0% (US)
- Generate new revenue for the institution: 32% (Kazakhstan), 17% (US)
- Improve national institutional accreditation: 6% (Kazakhstan), 6% (US)
What have been the highest priority internationalization activities at your institution in the past three years? Select three. n=18

- Partnerships with institutions and organizations abroad: 89% (Kazakhstan 42%, US 54%)
- Increasing study abroad for students: 72% (Kazakhstan 54%, US 51%)
- Recruiting international students: 50% (Kazakhstan 21%, US 39%)
- Increase the qualifications for faculty: 39% (Kazakhstan 21%, US 21%)
- Internationalization of the curriculum or co-curriculum (e.g., clubs, programs, and...): 28% (Kazakhstan 28%, US 37%)
- International scientific research collaborations: 28% (Kazakhstan 6%, US 28%)
What are the factors limiting internationalization at your institution? Select all that apply. n=18

- Foreign language fluency: 67%
- Lack of funding and income level: 67%
- Lack of program models: 39%
- Obtaining course credit for subjects: 22%
- Lack of network: 22%
- Visa sponsorship issues: 17%
- Lack of administrative capacity and retention: 11%
- Course, certificate, or other entry requirements: 11%
- Timing and academic calendars: 6%
Internationalization is Comprehensive

Articulated Institutional Commitment
- Strategic planning
- Committee
- Assessment

Administrative Leadership, Structure, Staffing
- Senior leadership
- International office

Curriculum & Learning Outcomes
- Requirements
- Courses
- Activities
- Outcomes
- Technology

Faculty Policies & Practices
- Tenure
- Hiring
- Faculty mobility
- Professional development

Student Mobility
- Credit transfer
- Funding
- Orientation and re-entry
- Student support

Collaboration & Partnerships
- Strategic planning
- Partner selection
- Agreements
- Assessment
- Tracking
Strategic Internationalization Planning Process

- Introduce Process
- Audit
- Surveys
- SWOT
- Competitors
- Positioning

- Assess results
- Select objectives
- Prioritize
- Roles and responsibilities

- Timeline
- Roles
- Personnel
- Metrics

- Revisit
- Refine
- Recommit
US-Kazakhstan Partnerships: Case Studies
Approach for Partnerships and Collaboration

- Start with faculty connections, expand.
- STEM, business education, virtual exchanges are untapped areas.
- Introduce some creativity, but focus on small, practical steps.
- Be flexible, and reduce barriers where possible.
- Open and frequent communications contribute to success.
- Identify complementary strengths and needs.
- Set goals, track them, and assess them.
- Partnerships are a process.
Goal
• Establish partnerships or advance current collaborations in higher education in the following areas:
  • Administrative policies and practices
  • Faculty partnerships and collaborations
  • Student exchanges
  • Pedagogy and curriculum

Outcomes and Outputs
• International connections and networks
• Research papers and presentations
• New curriculum models introduced

Eligibility and Awards
• U.S. university faculty and administrators
• Up to $20,000 per project for travel, conferences, materials
Ohio State University and Kazakh National Agrarian University

Goals

• Expand contacts in veterinary science and animal health
• Exchange up-to-date approaches for academic education, applied research, and outreach

Outcomes and Impact

• Faculty completed grant-writing workshop on agriculture
• Four research proposals
• Two peer-reviewed journal articles
• Mentorship of young faculty for U.S. fellowships
• Academic and applied teaching materials updated
• Faculty exchanges in data analytics planned
• MoU for future collaborations in climate change, joint patents for vaccines, farming practices signed
Penn State and Kazakh AgroTech University

Goals
• Connect students through internet-based communication tools (virtual exchange)
• Introduce international project-based learning into U.S. and Kazakhstan classrooms

Outcomes and Impact
• Faculty co-designed virtual and multi-disciplinary projects
  • Penn State students in technical writing will revise Kazakh legal documents related to crop production (3 week module).
  • Penn State IT students will develop an app on plant distribution in North Kazakhstan featuring data visualization (8 week module).
• Students learn about each others’ culture, university, etc. by working on real-world projects.
• Creation of guidebook of best practices for replication.
Western Michigan University and East Kazakhstan State Technical University

**Goals**

- Jointly study economic mineral deposits for gold and rare earth elements in eastern Kazakhstan.
- Highlight the mineral wealth of Kazakhstan to an international audience.

**Outcomes and Impact**

- Field trips yielded a collection of core samples for lab analysis.
- Guidance and mentorship of young PhD students.
- Present research data to industry representatives.
- Validate economic potential of mining and minerals industry in the region.
- Exploration of student exchange in geological research.
Goal
- Development of multidisciplinary approaches to restoring and remediating contaminated ecosystems.

Outcomes and Impact
- Faculty and graduate students conducted field work in both New York state and Pavlodar region.
- Joint research on research and training for faculty, students, and government environmental agencies in Kazakhstan.
- Development of dual degree programs for undergraduate and graduate students.
- Enhance training and education for new US-Kazakhstan collaborations and ideas for new research directions, particularly in climate change science.
Goal
- Developing collaborative research and education programs for business education.

Outcomes and Impact
- Shared models for entrepreneurship and extension.
- Identified faculty for mentorship of PhD students.
- Deepened faculty involvement in international business research and moved it further into the direction of applied entrepreneurship.
- Contacts, connections, and networks with agribusiness and applied research.

Washington State University and Narxoz, ENU, KATU
Central Asia University Partnerships (UniCEN)
Central Asia University Partnerships Program

Goal
• UniCEN supports selected universities across Central Asia to achieve a practical, practicable understanding of the U.S. higher educational system and how to engage successfully.

Activities
• Webinars
• Workshops
• Action Plan development
• Learning Management System
• Matchmaking

Website
https://unicen.americancouncils.org
Request for Proposals

Goal

- Establish partnerships or advance current collaborations in higher education in the following areas:
  - Pedagogy and curriculum to support English-language teaching and learning, especially STEM
  - Administrative capacity to increase collaborations with community colleges and universities
  - Modernize content, pedagogy, curriculum for English-medium classrooms
  - Support faculty and administrative collaboration and sustainable research with impact

Eligibility

U.S. university faculty and administrators

Awards

Up to $20,000-39,600 per project for travel, conferences, materials

Deadline for Applications

December 2, 2019
Contact: Adrian Erlinger, Program Manager
eaerlinger@americancouncils.org