



# Kazakhstan: Education Sector

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## Summary

- Education is a high priority for Kazakhstan. Demand for an international education in the emerging market of Kazakhstan is continuously growing.
- Per capita income of \$13,000 and a large disposable income of its population make Kazakhstan an attractive market for the U.S. education sector.
- Demand for English-language educational services is growing due to a variety of factors.
- Out of those enrolled in education institutions, 80% of the overall current 620,000 student population is self-funded. Around 67,000 of them study abroad, of which about 5% study in the U.S.
- Each year there are approximately 150,000 high school graduates in the country.
- The local government is committed to the education sector with \$7.75 billion allocated for 2012-2014.
- Education technology, secondary, vocational, and higher education are the key priority areas.



## Market Data

Kazakhstan's population reached 17 million in 2013. 90% of the population completes their education, secondary or higher, and there is great importance placed on education both at the Government and household level. Since Kazakhstan's independence in 1991, Kazakhs have taken increasing advantage of studying overseas with around 36,394 students currently studying in countries outside of Kazakhstan.

143,000 students graduated from high-schools in 2013 with an average rate rising to 200-250,000 students forecast to graduate in from high schools in the next five years.

Currently, 571,691 students are enrolled into higher education institutions in Kazakhstan. There are 139 universities nationwide. Here is the list of student demographics for top cities:

Top cities	Number of college students	Number of universities	% of high school graduates across Kazakhstan
Almaty	158,467	45	21%
Shymkent	77,774	12	19%
Karaganda	52,158	10	7%
Astana	48,606	14	4%
Aktobe	24,882	7	5%
Atyrau	12,979	3	4%

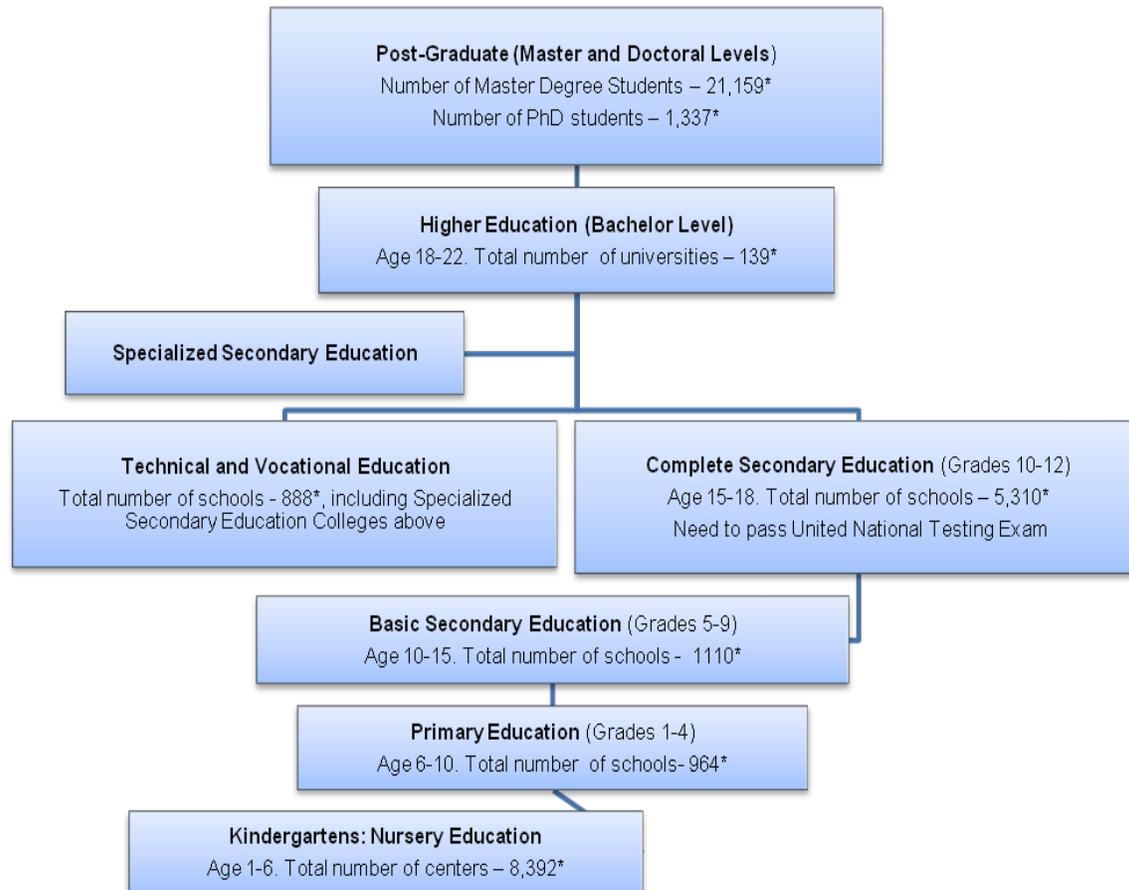
Source: Kazakhstan Ministry of Education and Sciences

The highest concentrations of students in both the high school and college level are in the cities of Almaty, Shymkent, Karaganda and Astana. Almaty has the largest student population of 158,467 students or 30% of the country. Almaty is the cultural, educational, commercial and financial center of Kazakhstan, therefore studying here increases chances of future employment for the students.

Costs are rising domestically. With only 53 public universities in Kazakhstan, competition for entry is intense. Some private universities charge almost as much as foreign institutions in Western Europe and higher than in South East

Asia and Eastern Europe, making studying overseas a more attractive option for those who can afford it. The range of tuition fees is from \$1,000 to \$15,000 per year, primarily at American-style, English-language universities.

### Kazakhstan's Education System



\*Source: Kazakhstan Ministry of Education and Sciences

Kazakhstan's education system is comprised of higher secondary school, vocational training, and university education. Students enter higher education at 16 years of age on average. Depending on the course and the track chosen, they can remain in higher education for another 2 to 6 years. There are 5,310 high schools in Kazakhstan.

Upon completing Basic Secondary Education - at the end of the ninth grade, school children take exit exams developed by the Ministry of Education and Science. Those who pass may continue their education in high school to obtain a certificate of secondary general education (graduate from the high school) that gives them the right to apply to higher Education institutions and to move on to obtain their Bachelor degrees.

At the age of 20-24 years, 91% of men and 94% of women have completed secondary or higher education. Teachers and school administrators advise those students who are not academically bound, and might not meet the requirements of the high school, to apply to one or two-year technical/vocational or professional schools that enable the graduates to enter the labor market at a low level of qualification. However, it is the parents who make the final decision. Students may apply to more academically rigorous *tekhnikum* or college (three-year technical schools or other specialized secondary education institutions) pedagogical, or pre-medical schools that grant graduates a vocational certificate of general secondary education, and the right to apply to universities for advanced programs of study later on.

The students who continue their education in high school take exit exams at the end of the eleventh grade at the age of 17-18. It is called United National Test (ENT). Students who successfully pass (with 50 points out of 100) are then allowed to apply to local universities and other higher educational institutions. Students that apply for state-funded scholarships for studying abroad are required to pass this exam along with those wishing to study in Kazakhstan. This National Test is not obligatory for those students applying for foreign universities on a self-funded basis. 157,240 students graduated from Kazakhstani high schools and 121,044 or 77% completed United National Test (ENT) in 2012.

The total number of both technical/vocational and specialized secondary education institutions is 888 - with 389 being private, 52 under universities and 499 public. Whether general or vocational, higher secondary education is provided free of charge, as it is included in the budget allocated to education by the government. University education is partly funded by the government, although private universities charge full tuition fees.

### ***Government Commitment to Education Sector***

Over the next 10 years, Kazakhstan is embarking on further major reforms across all education levels. Its reform efforts began as early as 1990s with the Bolashak ("Future") scholarship program, which sent qualifying college and graduate students to study in the West, with the proviso that recipients return and work in Kazakhstan for five years upon completion of their education. The Government is currently pursuing a program to adopt a credit-system which would allow students to study more easily internationally.

As delineated in the State Program on Education Development for 2011–2020, the Government plans to achieve universal preschool education by 2020, complete the transition to a 12-year model, and introduce a per capita financing scheme and a Board of Trustees at the secondary level. In 2010, Kazakhstan joined the Bologna process, a stepping stone toward establishing a three-level degree system of higher education in accordance with international standards. National universities will be granted autonomy in 2014, with all universities in the country becoming autonomous by 2015. Improving the quality of training and increasing funding at all levels, including that of higher and postgraduate education, are among the remaining challenges, together with further systemic reforms.

### ***Local High Schools***

The local government also invests heavily in English language schools in an effort to change the local business language from Russian to the more internationally accepted English, in order to better integrate the country into the global economy. [Nazarbayev Intellectual schools \(NIS\)](#) for talented and gifted children offer tri-lingual education in English along with Russian and Kazakh. NIS are a part of a wider program of educational reform, which includes the establishment of Nazarbayev University, the Centre for Educational Excellence and further initiatives to focus on teacher training and development. Nazarbayev Intellectual Schools are a group of 11 existing schools in Kazakhstan which will grow to 20 by 2014. The schools are currently in the major cities such as Astana, Uralsk, Semey, Kokshetau, Ust-Kamenogorsk, Taldykorgan and Almaty. Most NIS schools are for children aged 12 to 18. Winning a place at a Nazarbayev school is a high-stakes affair; after 6th grade, tuition and extras are covered by a state grant.

The most recent, and the first British public school in Central Asia, is Haileybury Almaty. Quality Schools International (QSI) based on the American system, has four schools in Kazakhstan, meeting the needs of both the transient expatriate population and local Kazakh families who want their children to have a Western-style education and become fluent in English. The average tuition rates at these schools range from \$15,000 to \$25,000.

### ***Local Technical and Vocational Schools***

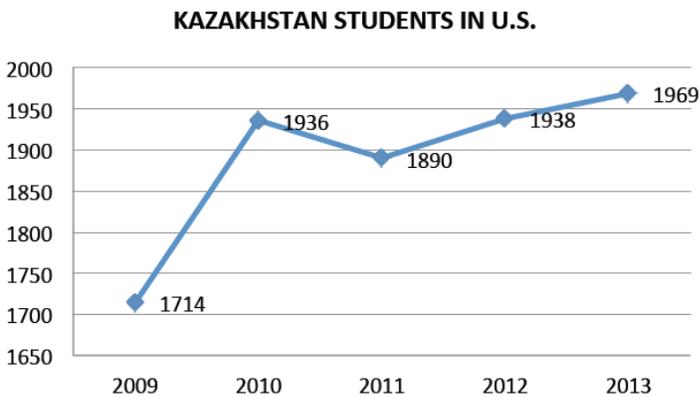
The Government of Kazakhstan works closely with the World Bank on some education reforms. A Technical and Vocational Education Modernization Project, which became effective in 2011, is aimed at raising the efficiency, quality, and relevance of TVE through an improved policy framework and institutional capacity. As a result, a national qualifications framework and occupational standards have been developed, linking the needs of industries with education programs. Twenty-seven TVE colleges received grants on a competitive basis to enhance institutional development and teacher training and to introduce a competency-based curriculum. By the end of 2013, the second round of grants will allow 41 colleges in nine regions of the country to enhance their institutional capacity, teacher training, and modular-based curriculum.

In recent years, Kazakhstan has shifted its focus to post-basic education. One of the priorities is the modernization of technical and vocational education (TVE), which has not received due attention for some years. The introduction of the unified and centralized National University Entrance Test in 2004, with adaptation in 2012, along with the pilot launch of a new per capita financing approach in secondary education in 2013, has been helping to improve access and transparency.

*Local Universities*

It is important to note the Government’s reform on ‘optimization’ of higher education in Kazakhstan. According to the Ministry of Education and Science, the number of higher educational facilities within 3-4 years will be limited to 100. The number of mostly private universities decreased from 150 in 2010 and 2011 to 139 in 2012. This reform attempts to resolve the disproportionate spread between degrees offered by the local universities and market demand for the degrees. The reform also tightens licensing regulations and qualification requirements of the local universities, in order to assure higher quality of the programs and correspondence to international standards. Additionally, 80% of the students are self-funded and just 20% are on state scholarships.

**Market Demand**



In the mindset of a Kazakhstani student, education in the U.S. is a prestigious education of good quality offering them better employment chances not only in Kazakhstan but also improving their employability on a global scale. An increasing demand for U.S. higher education can be attributed to:

- Strong study abroad interests: experience of living in the United States – safety, broaden horizons, travel around the country – cultural experiences
- Wider choice of specializations and better academic and extra-curricular activities and of course, studying in English.

Not many of them mention the ability to work while they study, but there are many advantages of U.S. education that they do not consider until they get there.

Here is a breakdown of Kazakhstan students in the U.S. by academic level.

Academic Year/ Degree	Undergraduate	Graduate	Non-degree	Optional Practical Training	Total
% of total	approx. 65%	approx. 20%	approx. 10%	approx. 5%	100%
2011/12	1,241	399	259	79	1,938
2012/13	1,345	343	187	84	1,969
% change	9.2%	-4.5%	-27.8%	6.3%	

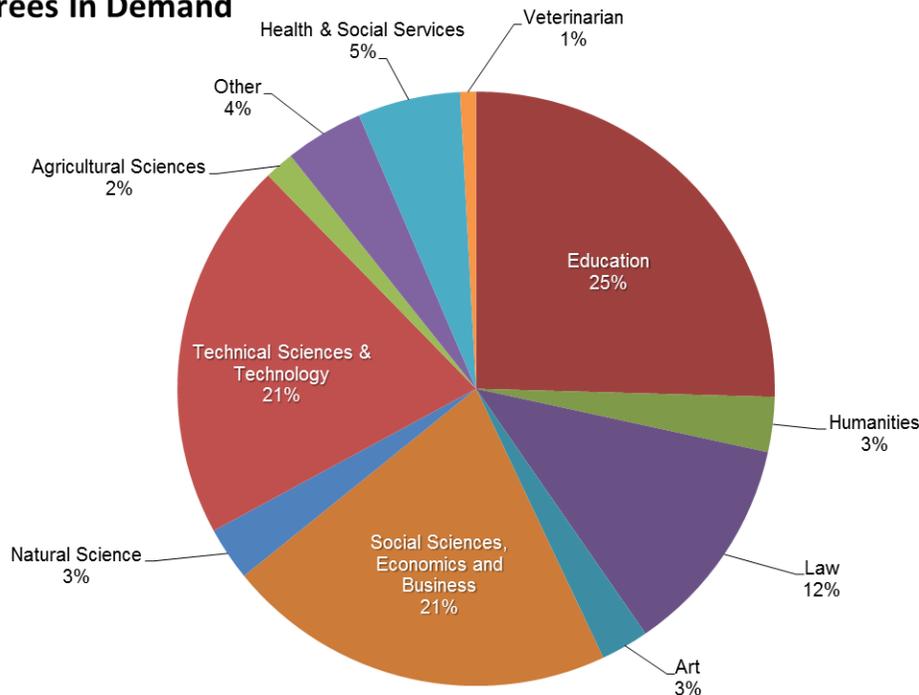
Source: Open Doors Data

The pie chart below shows the degrees that were in demand in 2013 out of an overall 571,691 **students** enrolled in higher education institutions in Kazakhstan.

Demand among students was gearing towards business, humanities and social studies with some increase in technical education.

- Business/Management, Humanities/Social Sciences: 15-20% with 137,143 students in 2012-2013
- Technical/Engineering: 10-15% with 133,914 students in 2012-2013

### Degrees In Demand



Source: Kazakhstan's Ministry of Education and Sciences

Based on skills gap analysis and the Government push towards establishing a new generation of professional managers and skilled engineers and technicians, the number of students choosing these professions is expected to remain on the same high level. The 2-3 year colleges providing vocational education with a potential to move to a university are mostly focused on providing education for transportation, communication, construction and agricultural sector technicians. Some others are pre-medical, nursing schools and kindergarten teachers' schools.

### Best Prospects

Higher education is not fine-tuned in order to reflect more accurately the needs of the labor market. Major multinationals on the scene from the mid-1990s regularly noted a "skills gap". A potential skills gap might include an insufficient supply of up-to-date technicians, engineers, scientists and professional managers, which might mean an increasing demand in education for related degrees. The market demand for technical/engineering and business management degrees is where United States' institutions are traditionally strong.

The country's 2020 Strategic Development Plan which includes the adaptation of the education system to the new socio-economic environment also creates opportunities for U.S. higher education institutions, education technology sectors.

### Education Technology

- 522 new schools planned to be built in the next five years;
- \$4 million has been budgeted for the improvement of material and technical base of four higher education institutions;

- Over 50% of Kazakh educational institutions will join e-learning projects in 2014 and the modernization figures are expected to reach 90% by 2020.

### **U.S. Higher Education**

The local government reform to tighten licensing regulations and qualification requirements of the local universities in order to improve education quality in the country offers opportunities for U.S. higher educational institutions to enter this market. At the moment, fewer than 10% of potential Kazakhstani applicants are studying in the U.S. and out of 37,000 self-funded students studying overseas, 80% are self-funded.

### **U.S. Community Colleges**

Vocational education is underdeveloped as many such colleges and technical training schools were closed or reformed in the 1990s. They prepared students for skilled professions wherever they were not able to or did not wish to pursue higher education. During the Soviet years, the system was subsidized by both the enterprises and the state. As the plants and the factories were privatized in independent Kazakhstan, their new owners cut the spending of money on vocational education and the system began crumbling. These colleges used to train 150,000 young people in 160 specialties. This number is currently down to 60,000 students per year. Despite the current attempts and Government investment into reforming technical and vocational institutions, there is a high demand and potential for U.S. Community colleges to take over this niche.

### **The Bolashak Scholarship**

The Bolashak is a national government scholarship established in 1993. It aims to assist talented young people in obtaining quality education abroad. The scholarship covers all costs related to education including tuition and fees, costs of travel, and a living stipend. The program requires all Bolashak recipients to return to Kazakhstan upon completing their education and work for five years in Kazakhstan. Since 1993 over 9000 Kazakhstani students became Bolashak Scholarship recipients with a capacity of 3,000 scholarship recipients a year. From 2011, the program provides scholarships for magistrate and PhD programs only. The most popular countries for study are the UK, U.S., and Russia. The United States is represented with 49 education institutions out of 200 Bolashak has agreements with worldwide.

### **Bolashak scholarships awarded in 2005 – 2012 by educational programs**

Program	Under-graduate		Graduate		Doctorate		Research Fellowship	
	Number of Students	%	Number of Students	%	Number of Students	%	Number of Students	%
2005	1243	69	478	27	55	3	-	-
2006	441	57	299	38	19	2	-	-
2007	97	36	138	52	11	4	-	-
2008	636	49	607	46	15	1	28	2
2009	419	41	561	56	11	1	12	1
2010	543	32	881	53	11	1	200	12
2011	-	-	447	86	14	3	59	11
2012	-	-	560	51	15	1	527	48
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3379</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>3971</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>9.6</b>

Source: Bolashak Statistics

## Key Suppliers and Competition to U.S. Education

### Kazakhstani Students Abroad in 2011-2013

Country	Number of students abroad	% of KZ students abroad
Russia	24,772	68.77 %
Kyrgyzstan	3,107	8.63 %
United Kingdom	2,054	5.7 %
United States	1,919	5.3 %
Turkey	711	1.97 %
Germany	702	1.95 %
Czech Republic	679	1.89 %
Poland	397	1.1 %
Malaysia	387	1.07 %
France	246	0.68 %

Source: Open Source Information UNHCR

Overall, there are approximately 67,000 self-funded Kazakhstani students studying overseas. In 2012, there were 24,772 people studying in Russia, 9,000 in China, 2,054 in the UK and 387 in Malaysia. The rest are studying in other countries: USA, Australia, Canada Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Singapore, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland and other European countries. Only 20% of all the students studying abroad are awarded with the Bolashak Scholarship, the rest are self-funded. Fewer than 10% of potential Kazakhstani applicants are studying in the U.S.

In popularity, the United Kingdom is a close second to the U.S., as are other European Union members Germany, France. With Eastern Europe – Czech Republic, Poland gaining popularity.

Closeness and common language might be the key factors for Russia taking 30% of Kazakhstan students. Turkey, Germany and France stand aside with some secondary schools that teach in German and French and Turkish schools also teach in English.

If a student is interested in studying business administration, they most frequently go to American schools. The U.S. and Britain also top the list for students wishing to study information technology, while students attending Russian institutions usually major in medicine, space technologies or aviation.

Student fairs in Kazakhstan are more common and better attended in the last few years. There is a small percentage of U.S. schools participating in these fairs. U.K., Germany, France, Czech Republic, Canada, Malaysia are among some of the active promoters of their Education services in the market.

## Prospective Buyers

### *Evolving Middle Class in Kazakhstan*

Unlike the rest of Central Asia, Kazakhstan's per-capita GDP has rocketed up in the last five years, creating burgeoning middle -and upper-class youth eager to travel and study abroad. In addition, government policy encourages this and has also dramatically increased English-language education nationwide over the past decade.

The rising disposable income nurtured and helped develop a steadily emerging middle class, accounting for around 25-40% of the 17.5 million population or around 4-5 million people. According to levels of income, the middle class can be roughly divided into two groups:

- the lower middle class, with earnings of up to \$24,000 per year per person - 70%
- the upper middle class, with earnings of up to \$60,000 per year per person - 30%

As the disposable incomes levels are high with over 40% of household income, industry experts estimate a continued growth in non-essential or luxury sectors.

As consumers, Kazakhstan's middle class is increasingly affluent, partly because of the trickle down from the nation's lucrative oil exports, and a booming retail sector including luxury retail chains like Saks Fifth Avenue which opened their first mall in Almaty last year. Though they still trail far behind the average household income of Americans – as consumers they tend to have a large portion of their money for discretionary spending. They are unburdened by the hangover of consumer debt that affected purchasing power in the developed world. Nor do Kazakhstan citizens have high medical bills because the health care system, if flawed, is largely socialized. The income tax is a flat 10 percent. A majority of Kazakhstanis own property mortgage-free, a legacy of the mass privatization of apartments in the 1990s.

Access to quality higher education is no less a major aspiration of the middle class. While Kazakhstan's post-Soviet legacy includes an excellent university system, many middle-class Kazakhs view foreign education as an essential component of a prosperous existence, quite aside from any question of prestige.

With economic growth and increased international trade comes a demand for English. Parents who cannot speak English often insist that their children learn it. Catering to meet this demand, we had mentioned several international schools located in Kazakhstan's main cities of Astana, Almaty and Atyrau and spreading to other regions. With a rough average capacity of 1,000 students per school – we estimate 25-30,000 potential graduates with high English language proficiency per annum. Those students are prime candidates to continue their education in the United States.

#### ***Kazakhstan Student Profile***

Students from Kazakhstan studying abroad can be classified into two groups:

- Students whose parents can afford to finance their education abroad. The majority of these students live in the largest cities of Almaty and Astana.
- Students that study abroad through different grant and scholarship programs. The majority of these are students who have obtained scholarships provided by Bolashak, a state funded educational grant program.

Kazakhstan students are mostly mature, and thus surer about what they want, than students in other markets. According to UNESCO, local students' literacy rates are very high and average at 94% compared to other middle-to-high income countries that Kazakhstan compares to and 92% compared to all other countries. With heavy investment levels into Education and with the introduction of new reforms, student academic performances grew by 15-20%

In 2010, Kazakhstan ranked first on the UNESCO Education for All (EFA) Development Index by achieving universal primary education (99 percent), adult literacy (99.6 percent), gender parity (99.3 percent), and a close to 100 percent progression rate to grade 5. Public expenditures on education have been on the rise, with 4.2 percent of GDP in 2012. For the first time, Kazakhstan participated in the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) in 2007 and twice in the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) in 2009 and 2012. Kazakh 4th-grade students scored relatively high in both mathematics (fifth place) and science (11th place) on the TIMSS.

#### ***U.S. Five-year Visa Regulation for the Kazakhstani Citizens***

Starting from August 1, 2013 the United States began issuing the first-ever five-year visas to citizens of Kazakhstan for travel to the United States. That fact is a great benefit for the future student willing to study in the U.S. as it will reduce their travel costs and encourage parents and relatives to visit. This is generally viewed to have a positive impact on U.S. Education.

#### **Market Entry**

Network is a key word in order to enter the country and needed sources for effective recruitment include education agents and institutional alliances that cooperate with school guidance counselors. According to Professional International Educational Resources, twenty-one educational agencies operate on the territory of Kazakhstan.

Other activities, such as attending schools, student fairs, holding seminars, and advertising campaigns, also became very important to develop the recruitment in the country. Thus, college guidebooks and catalogs could be designed to introduce students the US educational institutions.

Parents as a target are an important segment of the existing market. Marketing materials need to be created to speak to parents, and advertised at city business center offices such as Nurly Tau, Esentai Tower and Almaty Towers.

Internet and social networks are rapidly growing in Kazakhstan. The number of national users recently approached 10 million people. More than 3 million citizens are active users of different kinds of social networks, which can be used as the main tool to promote the university, record consumer trends and to create an effective feedback system to the potential audience.

## Market Issues & Obstacles

The launch of the [Nazarbayev University](#) has decreased the funding for Bolashak scholarships. As a result, from 2011, the program provides scholarships for magistrate and PhD programs only. As mentioned above, the new Nazarbayev University is based in Astana and aims to bring world-class education to Kazakhs rather than sending students abroad to receive it. Nazarbayev University would focus heavily on engineering and technocratic skills, and would have less of the perspective-broadening liberal arts curriculum of Western education.

Competition from other countries, admissions deadlines, fees and policies, current recruitment tactics, testing availability, perceived visa difficulty, access to high schools for recruitment and lack of institutional relationships severely hampers growth of enrollment. Interestingly, when compared to similar-income countries, Kazakhstan does well per capita and this data clearly dispels the notions that geography, English ability or income are barriers -- or even major factors -- for Kazakhstanis to a U.S. higher education.

Most universities charge in the \$50 to \$200 range for an application. The individual cost may not be a big problem — but the cost can add up pretty quickly, given that students likely to apply to multiple colleges. For instance, most other foreign universities – notably the UK – do not have admissions fees. Thus, offer of an application fee waiver would penetrate an existing market and induce a greater number of students to apply.

Safety is also a common concern for parents of Kazakhstani students. Due to the distance, students and their parents have heightened concerns about it.

Another obstacle is copies of transcripts in English. Some universities in Kazakhstan provide transcripts in Russian and Kazakh only, but it is possible to officially translate into English and send notarized one. The next is TOEFL and GRE General Test. However, some universities additionally require students to take their English language test prior enrolling the course and if they will fail, they have to take English language courses at their expense.



Admissions deadline for U.S. universities are also different, and depend on whether students are applying for scholarships or not, which present additional deadlines and documentation. In general, most deadlines do not fit with the Kazakhstani academic year. While some Universities have rolling admissions programs, these are not widely known or publicized. The U.S. educational institutions need to promote the opportunities on training and working in the U.S. at Kazakhstani universities since students, who are interested and eager to apply, are not aware of it.

## Trade Events

### U.S. Education Fairs - Spring 2014

Organized by the U.S. Mission to Kazakhstan  
Location: Almaty and Shymkent  
Dates: March 1 & 2, 2014

#### Websites

Event description: [http://export.gov/eac/Description\\_Kazakhstan\\_Education\\_Fair\\_March\\_2014](http://export.gov/eac/Description_Kazakhstan_Education_Fair_March_2014)

Event registration: [https://emenuapps.ita.doc.gov/Kazakhstan\\_EduFair\\_Registration\\_March\\_2014](https://emenuapps.ita.doc.gov/Kazakhstan_EduFair_Registration_March_2014)

Dates: April 5 & 6, 2014

Event description: [http://export.gov/eac/Description\\_Kazakhstan EduFair April 2014](http://export.gov/eac/Description_Kazakhstan_EduFair_April_2014)

Event registration: [https://emenuapps.ita.doc.gov/Registration\\_Kazakhstan EduFair April 2014](https://emenuapps.ita.doc.gov/Registration_Kazakhstan_EduFair_April_2014)

**Various International Education Fairs:**

organized by local Education agents individually with their foreign partners

**Globus Education Fair**

Date: February 2014

Location: Astana, Almaty, Atyrau, Aktau

Website: <http://www.globus-almaty.com/>

**A2 International Fair Astana**

Date: March 18, 2014

Location: Astana

Website: <http://www.aafair.com/>

**Begin Group Fair Astana**

Date: February 23, 2014

Location: Astana

Website: <http://begingroup.com/>

**Linden Tours for Boarding Schools**

Date: April 12, 2014 (Agent Fair)

Location: Rixos Hotel, Almaty, Kazakhstan

[www.boardingschooltours.com](http://www.boardingschooltours.com)

**Other Education sector trade events:**

**Education Technology 2014**

Astana, Kazakhstan

April 8-10, 2014

Organizer: World DIDAC

Website: [www.worlddidac-astana.com](http://www.worlddidac-astana.com)

**Education and Career 2014**

Location: Almaty, Kazakhstan

Date: April 2014

Organizer: Atakent Expo

Website: <http://eng.atakentexpo.kz/news/detail.php?ID=113>

## Resources & Contacts

Below are some useful contacts and resources regarding international education in general and education in Kazakhstan specifically.

**U.S. Commercial Service Education Team Home Page:** [www.export.gov/industry/education/index.asp](http://www.export.gov/industry/education/index.asp)

**American Councils for International Education** <http://www.americancouncils.org/>

American Councils administers EducationUSA Advising Centers (EACs) throughout Eurasia. These centers are part of the U.S. State Department supported EducationUSA Advising Center network and exist to:

- Provide accurate, unbiased information about all accredited U.S. higher education institutions
- Make appropriate and accurate materials available for researching educational programs in the US
- Advise students about applying independently to US higher education institutions
- Provide information on study- and research-abroad opportunities

EACs maintain libraries of written, audio-visual, and CD-ROM resources (including ETS test preparation materials) and translate some materials into local languages. Lectures, seminars, and counseling services are also delivered.

**EducationUSA Advising Centers – Kazakhstan** <http://www.educationusa.info/Kazakhstan>

EducationUSA is a global network of more than 400 advising centers supported by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. There are 5 Advising Centers in Kazakhstan.

**Opportunity Grant Program** [http://kazakhstan.usembassy.gov/opportunity\\_grants.html](http://kazakhstan.usembassy.gov/opportunity_grants.html)

The Opportunity Program, funded by the U.S. Department of State, is designed to support the application process to U.S. higher education institutions for students who are unable to cover expenses related to the application process but who are highly competitive for full financial aid

Other helpful links and information resources:

- Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan [www.edu.gov.kz/en](http://www.edu.gov.kz/en)
- Bolashak Scholarship Program [www.bolashak.gov.kz](http://www.bolashak.gov.kz)
- World Bank (Technical and Vocational Education Project 2011) [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)
- Open Source Information (UNHCR) [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)
- Professional International Educational Resources [www.pieronline.org/](http://www.pieronline.org/)
- Nazarbayev Intellectual Schools [www.nis.edu.kz/en](http://www.nis.edu.kz/en)
- Nazarbayev University in Astana [www.nu.edukz/en](http://www.nu.edukz/en)
- KIMEP University in Almaty [www.kimep.kz](http://www.kimep.kz)

## For More Information

The U.S. Commercial Service in **Almaty, Kazakhstan** can be contacted via e-mail at: Aliya Shaikhina [aliya.shaikhina@trade.gov](mailto:aliya.shaikhina@trade.gov); Phone: +7 (727) 250 7612 ext. 6491; Fax: +7 (727) 250 0777; or visit our website: [www.export.gov/kazakhstan](http://www.export.gov/kazakhstan).

For a more comprehensive report on doing business in Kazakhstan, please visit our page: <http://export.gov/kazakhstan/doingbusinessinkazakhstan/index.asp>.

## The U.S. Commercial Service — Your Global Business Partner

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