



Education
USA

KAZAKHSTAN TOUR FALL 2016

October 8 -16, 2016
Astana, Karaganda, Almaty



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WELCOME

The EducationUSA advising centers and U.S. Embassy in Kazakhstan welcomes you the 2016 EducationUSA Fall Tour.

In each of the stops along the tour, the EducationUSA centers will organize a college fair, arrange for school visits where possible, and conduct a country briefing for tour participants. This will be a cultural experience as well as a recruitment opportunity, so we will offer (when possible) sightseeing and an introduction to the culture in each country. We hope you will return home with a better understanding of the context from which our students come.

This tour is supported by and partially sponsored by EducationUSA and the U.S. Embassies, reducing the cost significantly for U.S. college and university participants. EducationUSA centers will ensure that you are well taken care of!

We don't allow U.S. universities to be represented during any part of the tour by a local agent. We seek to have representatives from the U.S. visit and meet with our students, and your cooperation with this is appreciated. Additionally, If a participating representative plans to meet with an agent while in a host country, the meeting must be private and without media coverage or advertising during the duration and prior to the Tour. We appreciate your sensitivity to our need to avoid vying with other agencies or individuals for the credibility that your presence confers during what is an EducationUSA program.

Participants will pay independently for their own airfare, hotel, and meals. We will make reservations for, where possible, at secure accommodations in all the cities you'll visit. EducationUSA is coordinating fair plans with the Center for International Programs (CIP) which provides funding for Kazakhstan citizens to study in the U.S. at the Masters and PhD levels as Bolashak Fellows. More information will be provided about U.S. university eligibility to host Bolashak Fellows, and about fair costs and dates will be provided on the fair Facebook page to help universities decide if they would like to arrive in Kazakhstan a few days earlier to attend the CIP fair.

We look forward to seeing you soon!
EducationUSA Team, Kazakhstan

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/edusakztour2016

Registration: <http://1.usa.gov/1KEOlVJ>

POINT OF CONTACT

Primary

Almaty

Dana Ziyabekova
P: 7 (727) 291 92 26 x112
E: edusakztour@americancouncils-kz.com

EducationUSA Centers

Astana

Raushan Uzakova
P: 7 (7172) 91 00 68
E: astana_eac@americancouncils-kz.com

Karaganda

Askar Bekishev
P: +7 (7212) 42 07 61
E: abekishev61@gmail.com

Almaty

Dana Ziyabekova
P: 7 (727) 291 92 26 x112
E: educationusa@americancouncils-kz.com

TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISA

Kazakhstan: Citizens of the U.S. and some other countries are able to visit Kazakhstan for up to 15 days visa-free. Information about visa requirements are available at the following link: <http://mfa.gov.kz/index.php/en/kl-nlknkna-lksn>.

CURRENCY

Kazakhstan: 1 USD = 345 Kazakhstan Tenge *Exchange Rates as of March 17, 2016. Please confer with www.xe.com before traveling for current exchange rates.

TENTATIVE AGENDA for Fall 2016

ASTANA			
Saturday, October 8			
Time	Arrive to Astana airport (pick up from airport)		
	Check in hotel		
Sunday, October 9			
10:00	Country Briefing with PAO		
11:00	Bolashak presentation		
Time	Fair Setup at Ramada Plaza Astana Hotel		
2 - 6 pm	EducationUSA Fair at Ramada Plaza Astana Hotel		
Time	No-host Dinner		
Monday, October 10			
	Graduate visits		Undergraduate visits
10:30-11:30am	-Mini Fair at University for Graduate Students (Nazarbayev University)	8:30-9:30am	- Meeting with school counselor prior fair - Mini Fair at School (Quality School International)
11:30-12:30pm	-No-host Lunch (TBD)	12:00-1:00pm	-No-host Lunch (TBD)
1:00-2:00pm	Mini Fair at University for Graduate Students (Agrotechnical University)	1:00-2:00pm	- Meeting with school counselor prior fair Mini Fair at School (Republic Physics and Math School)
3:00-4:00pm	Presentations at the American Corner (library of Eurasian National University)	4:00-5:00pm	- Meeting with school counselor prior fair Mini Fair at School: (Nazarbayev Intellectual School IB)
4:00-5:00pm	Mini Fair at University for Graduate Students (American Corner)		

7 - 9pm	Reception at Ramada Plaza Astana
Tuesday, October 11	
	City Tour
1:14pm	Depart Astana for Karaganda by Train #043L, Kustanai - Alma Ata 1 (Train ticket will be purchased by EdUSA)

KARAGANDA

Tuesday, October 11

5:07pm	Arrive Karaganda from Astana (pick up from train)
	Check in Cosmonaut Hotel

Wednesday, October 12

8:30am	Pick up from Cosmonaut Hotel
9 - 11am	Meeting with school counselor prior fair Mini-fair at Kazakh-Turkish Lyceum for boys
11:30am	Pick up from KTL for boys
12 - 1pm	No-host lunch (place TBD)
1pm	Pick up from lunch place
1:30 - 3pm	Meeting with school counselor prior fair Mini-fair at Kazakh-Turkish Lyceum for girls
3:15pm	Pick up from KTL for girls
3:30-6pm	Meeting with school counselor prior fair Mini-fair at Nazarbayev Intellectual School
6:15pm	Pick up from Nish and drive to Cosmonaut Hotel

Thursday, October 13

8:30am	Pick up from Cosmonaut Hotel
9 -10:45am	Meeting with school counselor prior fair Mini-fair at Murager High School

11am	Pick up from Murager High School
11:15am - 12pm	Check out from Cosmonaut Hotel
12-1pm	No Host Lunch
1 - 2pm	Fair Setup at Cosmonaut Hotel
2 - 6pm	EducationUSA Fair at Cosmonaut Hotel
6:30pm	Pick up from Cosmonaut Hotel and transfer to airport
9 pm	Depart Karaganda for Almaty, flight # Air Astana KC312

ALMATY			
Thursday, October 13			
10:25pm	Arrive Almaty from Karaganda, Air Astana KC312 (pick up from airport)		
11:30pm	Check in Intercontinental Hotel		
Friday, October 14			
9:30am	Pick up from Intercon		
10 -11:30am	- Meeting with Mary Eckersall, school counselor - Mini Fair at Haileybury Almaty, QSI students will join (all reps)		
12-12:40pm	No host lunch at Sultan		
12:40pm	Pick up from Sultan; Group 1 depart to School; Group 2 depart to University visit		
Group 1: Undergrad recruitment		Group 2: Grad recruitment	
1:15 -2:30pm	Republican Physics and Math School - Meeting with Lazzat Assabayeva, school counselor - Mini Fair (around 150 students)	1 -2pm	Kazakh British Technical University Meeting with students and head of departments
3 - 5pm	Nazarbayev Intellectual Schools, Physics&Math and Chemistry&Biology - Meeting with Vidadi Mirzaev and Gulsina Azimbekova, school counselors - Mini Fair (around 350)	3- 4:30 pm	Kazakh National University named after al-Farabi Meeting with students
5:30pm	Pick up from Nish and drive to Intercon.	5pm	Pick up from KasNu and drive to Intercon
6 pm	No host dinner and free time		
Saturday, October 15			
10 am	Pick up from Intercon for sightseeing		
10 am -12pm	Kok Tobe, Park 28, Green Bazar		

12 - 12:40pm	No host Lunch at Dastarkhan
12:40pm	Drive to Intercon
1 - 1:30pm	Fair setup at Intercon
1:30 -2pm	Geeting with PAO, Chaz Martin
2 - 6 pm	EducationUSA Fair in Intercontinental Hotel
2:30 - 3pm	Presentation "Your 5 Steps to the US Studies" -Dana Ziyabekova
3 - 3:30pm	Presentation "Applying to Student Visa"-
3:30 - 4pm	Presentation "Your 5 Steps to the US Studies" -Dana Ziyabekova
4 - 4:30pm	Presentation "University vs Community College in the US" - CC reps
5:50pm	Closing, taking pictures
6:30pm	Pick up from Intercon lobby
7pm	No host Dinner, Alasha restaurant
Sunday, October 16	
	Depart Almaty

RECOMMENDED FLIGHTS

DATE	DEPART CITY/TIME	ARRIVE CITY/TIME	AIRLINE/FLIGHT	EST. FARE (\$)
Saturday, October 8	Frankfurt, Germany, 1:20 pm	Astana, 10:50 pm	Lufthansa 646	\$ 546
Tuesday, October 11	Astana, 1:14pm	Karaganda, 5:07pm	Train #043LJ Kustanai - Alma Ata 1	Included to fair fee
Thursday, October 13	Karaganda, 9:00 pm	Almaty, 10:25 pm	Air Astana KC 312	\$56
Sunday, October 16	Almaty, 8:25am	St. Petersburg, Russia, 10:50am	Air Astana KC 135	\$135

Airline Websites: Air Astana, <http://airastana.com/global/en-us/>

RECOMMENDED HOTELS

Universities will be able to make reservations at some of the fair venue hotels for a special rate, as listed below.

CITIES Check-In/Check-Out	HOTEL INFORMATION	HOTEL PRICES & AMENITIES (approximately)
Astana, Kazakhstan Oct. 8 - 11	Ramada Plaza Astana 47, Abai Ave., Astana 010000 Kazakhstan Front desk: +7 7172 391-000 Website: www.ramadaplazaastana.kz Email: hotel@ramadaplazaastana.kz	Single room: \$63 Breakfast is included. Internet: included
Karaganda, Kazakhstan Oct. 11-13	Cosmonaut Hotel 162-a, Krivoguz Street, Karaganda, 100019, Kazakhstan Front desk: +7 7212 428-555 Website: www.eng.cosmonaut.kz Email: sales@hotelcosmonaut.kz	Single room: \$74 Breakfast is included. Internet: included
Almaty, Kazakhstan Oct. 13-16	Intercontinental Hotel Address: 181 Zheltoksan Street, Almaty Front desk: + 7 727 250-500 Website: www.intercontinental.com Email: reservation@interconti-almaty.kz	Single Room: \$167 Breakfast is included. Internet: included

HOTEL RESERVATION

In order to book the hotel in Astana and Almaty with special price the participants need to ask a Reservation Form from Dana Ziybekova at edusakztour@americancouncils-kz.com. The participants need to contact the hotel in Karaganda directly to make their bookings.

The participants are welcome to stay in any other hotel not recommended by EducationUSA, however, they need to note that pick up and drop off points will be the recommended hotels, and the participants will be responsible for their own transportations to their hotels or/and recommended hotel.

SHIPPING INFORMATION

Shipping recommendations:

EducationUSA recommends the participants to ship fair materials through to the U.S. Embassy diplomatic pouch address. As it has the benefit of being very low cost since universities pay only for US shipping to VA. Universities can pretty much put any printed and non-paper promotional items in a shipment to the VA pouch addresses.

Important Notes:

- **VERY IMPORTANT: Mark all boxes “Educational Materials – No Monetary Value”.**
- Please note that even a nominal dollar value (as little as \$1) can initiate customs procedures that can result in hundreds of dollars of import fees and long delays.
- To avoid delays we recommend shipping all items by **August 25, 2016.**
- Boxes shipped should not exceed 20 kg, and total shipments should not exceed 70 kg.
- The boxes that will be needed in Astana should note that on the address label. The boxes that will be needed in Karaganda should note “Karaganda” on the address label, and Almaty materials should note “Almaty” in the address.

Using other mailing service:

If the participant does choose to take a risk to send fair materials through other mailing services then we recommend that you check custom regulations before sending packages and consult with your mail services on how to avoid any problems at customs, as regulations can change, and this will save you time and money.

Also, the participant should only include documents (promo materials printed on paper). Customs scans each package so the presence of anything that isn't a document such as flash drive, key-chain, pen, etc. will certainly result in customs procedures. We recommend that these items go only to the VA pouch addresses or be hand carried.

Again, universities that shipping to any address other than the diplomatic pouch do so at their own risk and might find themselves without any materials on fair day.

EducationUSA Advising Centers will NOT be responsible for any packages that may be stopped at customs, and will NOT perform any customs clearance activities

STUDENT PROFILE

CITY	EXPECTED	UNDER GRAD	GRADUATE	INTENSIVE ENGLISH	Diplomatic Pouch Address
Astana	1,000	60%	40%	60%	<p>Participants should ship their materials by August 25 .</p> <p>Please ship the materials for Astana to: With note: Educational materials</p> <p>Aidana Kenesbayeva EDUCATIONUSA TOUR (ASTANA) 2230, Astana place, Dulles, VA 20189</p>
Karaganda	1,000	60%	40%	60%	<p>Participants should ship their materials by August 25.</p> <p>Please ship the materials for Karaganda to: With note: Educational materials</p> <p>Aidana Kenesbayeva EDUCATIONUSA TOUR (KARAGANDA) 2230, Astana Place Dulles, VA 20189</p> <p><i>Note: Participants will be responsible for carrying their Karaganda materials from Astana to Karaganda</i></p>
Almaty	2,000	60%	40%	60%	<p>Participants should ship their materials by August 25.</p> <p>Please ship the materials for Almaty to: With note: Educational materials</p> <p>Charles Martin Public Affairs Section EDUCATIONUSA TOUR (ALMATY) c/o Alumni Coordinator 7030 Almaty Place Dulles, VA 20189</p>

KAZAKHSTAN FAST FACTS 2014-2015

KAZAKHSTANI STUDENTS IN THE U.S. STUDENT BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAM

PROGRAM	2013/14	2014/15	% Change
Undergrad	1,344	1246	-7.3
Graduate	310	359	15.8
Non-Degree	271	302	11.4
OPT	87	110	26,4
ORIGIN	2013/14	2014/15	% Change
Total Kazakh Students in U.S.	2,012	2,017	0.2
Total national Students in U.S.	886,052	974,926	10.0

- The number of students from Kazakhstan increased slightly by 0.2% to 2,017. 359 Kazakhstani students have enrolled in graduate programs, a 16% increase from the previous year. 62% of Kazakhstani students are pursuing undergraduate studies, continuing to outnumber by all other categories. Undergraduate studies include Associate's' and Bachelor's degrees.
- Kazakhstan sends 37,000 self-paying undergraduate and graduate students overseas every year, but only around five percent choose to study in the United States.
- In 2011, Bolashak ended their undergraduate scholarship and introduced in its place a professional development and technical skill development program. Bolashak expanded to include arts and mass media industry professionals, along with public servants, academic and medical staff, engineers, and technical workers. The changes in the Bolashak scholarship aim to rectify a shortage of highly qualified specialists whose fields of expertise are needed to develop Kazakhstan's economy.
- In 2014, the government announced plans to reduce the number of universities over the next five years from 139 to 100. This will be in addition to the nearly 300 institutions closed in 2012.
- The government's Nazarbayev Intellectual Schools and the Nazarbayev University will offer free education to the country's high performing youth, however, because of limited seats and highly competitive standards of admissions, many elite Kazakh students will seek to study abroad.
- Kazakhstan is a rapidly growing economy, and rich oil and gas reserves. One of the strongest economies in Central Asia and the first of the Soviet republic to pay of its debt to the IMF, Kazakhstan has seen its economy grow by 8% in the last 10 years.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

We don't allow U.S. universities to be represented during any part of the tour by a local agent or comparable local representative. We seek to have representatives from the U.S. visit and meet with our students, and your cooperation with this is appreciated. Additionally, if a participating representative plans to meet with an agent while in a host country, the meeting must be private and without media coverage or advertising during the duration and prior to the Tour. We appreciate your sensitivity to our need to avoid vying with other agencies or individuals for the credibility that your presence confers during what is an EducationUSA program.

Registration:

- The registration deadlines are **June 15, 2016 at \$1400 and August 5, 2016 at \$1600**. In order to qualify for the early bird registration fee, registration and payment must be received by **July 1st**.
- Please note registration fee includes expenses for one representative for organized travel, events and local train fee. Registrants must provide prior notification regarding guests. Guests may be charged extra.
- Registration is not considered confirmed until payment has been processed.
- Payments will be managed by American Councils for International Education, in Washington, DC. An American Councils employee will contact institutional representatives with payment instructions once registration is received.

The EducationUSA Advising Centers will:

- Advertise and promote the events to students, parents, school/university teachers and counselors.
- Provide counter space, a chair, bottled water and sign for each participating institution. If additional space is required, arrangements should be made with the EducationUSA staff in advance.
- Include institution profile in the event brochure distributed to all attendees. All profiles and print-quality school logos must be received no later than August 15, 2016, to guarantee inclusion.
- Prepare and send after the fair a list of visitors.
- Arrange airport transfers for representatives who fly on the recommended flights between fair cities and stay at the recommended hotel in each fair city.
- NOT be responsible for any lost or damaged items.
- NOT be responsible for any mailed packages that may be stopped at customs, and will not perform any customs clearance activities.

Participating Institutions agree to the following:

- Participating institutions must hold U.S. Regional or National Accreditation. Verification may be requested. We reserve the right to refuse registration of any institution.
- Participating institutions must support and adhere to the NAFSA Code of Ethics, provide on-going services for international students and follow the NACAC guidelines at all fairs.
- Participation by agents are not permitted.
- Exhibitors are responsible for their visas (if applicable), airline tickets, hotel reservations, and ground transfers.
- Exhibitors are responsible for shipping materials with sufficient time for delivery. Please be aware of local customs issues. All printed materials and fair items should be sent to the addresses provided.

Cancellation Policy:

- Cancellations received on or before **August 5, 2016 will be given a 50% reimbursement**. All cancellations after **August 5, 2016 will not be reimbursed**.
- Cancellations can only be made by sending an email to:
edusakztour@americancouncils-kz.com.

No-show policy:

- No reimbursement. If materials have been received, they will be displayed without a representative at the table.