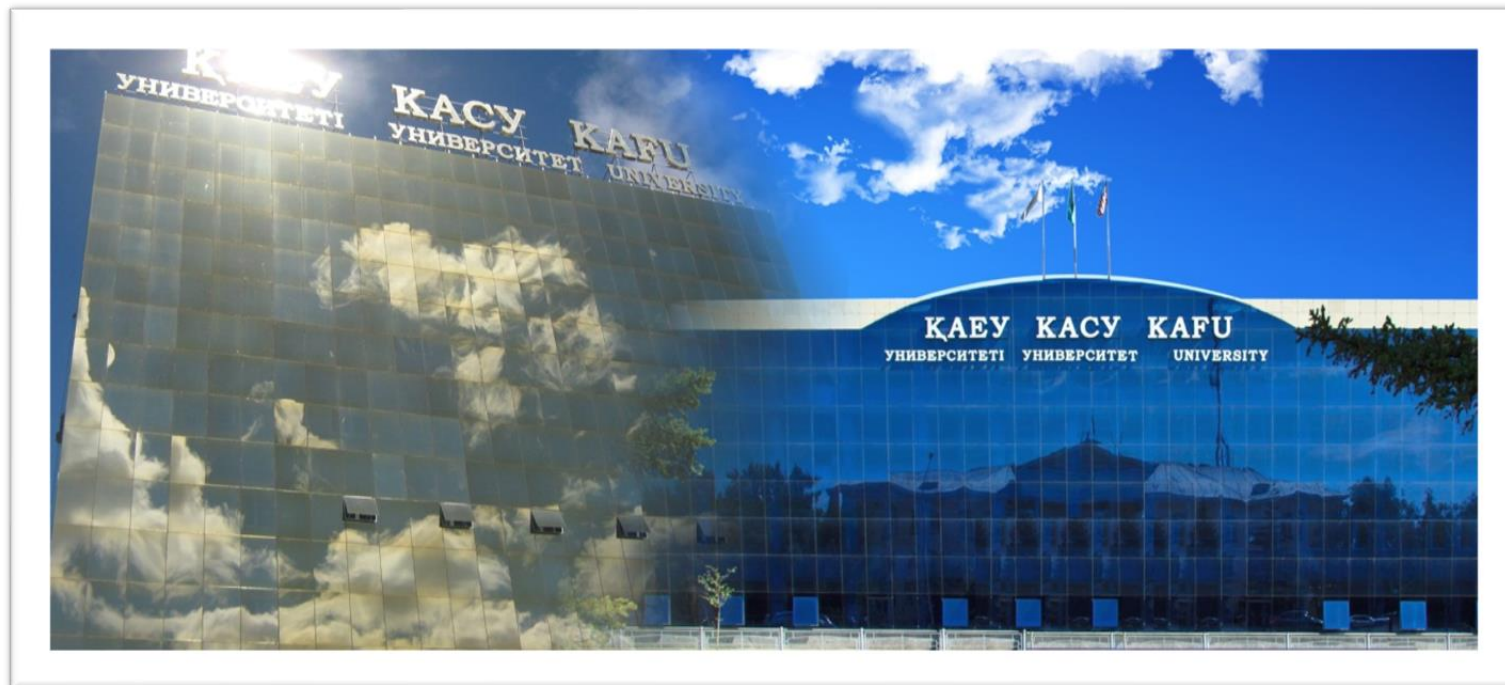


# Kazakh-American Free University



# Introduction to Kazakhstan



# Some Quick Facts about Kazakhstan

- 9th largest country in the world with only 16 million people.
- One of the most developed countries in Central Asia with massive oil and mineral wealth.
- Majority of population is Kazakh, a Turkik language group. Also a significant number of other people groups, including Russians, Ukrainians, Germans, and Koreans.
- Kazakhs were historically nomadic sheep-herders.
- Under Soviet rule, the Kazakhs largely became city dwellers.
- Today, Kazakh and Russian are the predominant languages with a growing interest in English.





# A Brief History of KAFU

- Established in 1994, through the initiative of the then Minister of Education, Dr. Yerezhep Mambetkazyev – a significant reformer for Kazakhstan's education system.
- A desire to provide an education based on international partnership that would be taught in English and include significant international exchange opportunities.
- Originally opened through a partnership with InterVarsity – an American Christian student organization.
- Started with one classroom and 25 students studying Management.
- Today, approximately 4,000 students, 28 undergraduate majors, 4 academic buildings and partnerships with colleges and organizations around the world.



# Mission

## ***Developing leaders for the 21<sup>st</sup> century for the benefit of sovereign Kazakhstan***

This mission is realized through an education that trains students in critical and independent thinking skills, professional skills, a “free” environment that promotes student self-expression and considers each student’s unique potential, development of servant leadership skills and values, and cross-cultural skills with fluency in foreign languages.



# KAFU - Unique in Kazakhstan

- A focus on leadership development.
- Efforts to develop mutually beneficial international partnership programs.
- Efforts to teach a high percentage of courses in English.
- Consistently hosting between 20 and 30 volunteer visiting teachers each year.
- Over 700 students who have participated in some form of international exchange or education programs.
- International business program accreditation.
- A private university that is now in the top 4 of humanities/economic universities in Kazakhstan.



# Four Academic Departments

- Pedagogy and Psychology
- Foreign Languages
- Business
- Law and International Relations







# Pedagogy and Psychology Department

## Undergraduate Programs:

- Kazakh Language and Literature
- Russian Language and Literature
- Primary Education
- Psychology
- Physical Education and Sport
- Journalism

## Master's Programs:

- Psychology





# Foreign Language Department

## Undergraduate Programs:

- Translation Studies
- Foreign Languages (English major with minor language)
- Foreign Languages (German major with minor language)

## Master's Programs:

- Translation Studies
- Foreign Languages



# Business Department

## Undergraduate Programs:

- Information Systems
- Economics
- Management
- Finance
- State and Local Management
- Tourism
- Accounting and Auditing

## Master's Programs:

- Management
- Information Systems
- Finance

## Ph.D. Program:

- Management



# Law and International Relations Department

## Undergraduate Programs:

- Law
- Law and Economics
- International Relations
- Customs Affairs

## Master's Programs:

- Law
- International Relations

## Ph.D. Program

- Law

## Two Vocational “Colleges”

- Within its structure, KAFU operates two secondary-professional (vocational) colleges which accept students after the 9<sup>th</sup> grade of high school.
- The humanities-focused college offers vocational degrees in: translation, publishing, hotel management, tourism, information systems, programming, office management, design, library management, finance, legal assistant, social work, general management, food service, primary education, and middle-elementary education.
- The economics/technical focused college offers vocational degrees in: economics, programming, finance, statistical evaluation, management, marketing, bookkeeping, architecture, auto mechanics, and information systems.





# Examples of International Partnership Programs

## Visiting American Teacher Program

- A volunteer program. Visiting teachers provide their own transportation to KAFU.
- KAFU provides local housing and meals.
- KAFU works hard to take advantage of the skills and experiences of visiting Americans by having them guest teach in existing classes or by teaching extra-curricular seminars.
- From 2 weeks to a full semester.



# Examples of International Partnership Programs

## International Servant Leadership Program

- A 2-year, 4-part extra-curricular program, organized jointly by KAFU and Co-Serve International, that helps students develop as servant leaders.
- Part 1 - an intensive, 2-week course that considers the values and principles of leadership.
- Part 2 - a 5-month mentor process, where students continue to discuss the principles of leadership with an international mentor.
- Part 3 - an international leadership experience, where students experience examples of effective leadership in some part of the world.
- Part 4 - a demonstration project where students demonstrate their skills to build teams that make a difference in their local communities.



# Examples of International Partnership Programs

## Kazakhstan Student Exchange Programs

- KAFU hosts groups of international students for a variety of international exchange purposes.
- The content of the program can be adjusted to the needs/interests of the students. Common examples include language and culture learning and local business exposure.
- Programs usually involve connection with KAFU students as co-participants in the program, as translators, and as hosts.
- One unique example is a one-month internship for nursing students from Northwest University, where KAFU students serve as translators and hosts while they visit and serve in local hospitals.





# Examples of International Partnership Programs

## USA Summer Education through Business Immersion (EBI)

- A 1-month program currently organized by Co-Serve International in Oregon.
- Top KAFU students are immersed in an American business as an intern for about 1 month.
- Students live with American host families during the experience.





# Examples of International Partnership Programs

## Student Semester Exchanges

- KAFU is very interested in receiving international students and/or sending students to study abroad for one semester.
- For international students, KAFU is able to offer a variety of courses, taught in English, especially in fields of business, education, and foreign languages. Limited courses in IT and International Relations are also available. KAFU is ready to develop specialized programs that include local language training (Russian or Kazakh) and exposure to local culture or industry.
- Due to an imbalance in tuition costs, KAFU is very interested in developing partnerships with American colleges that include a bilateral tuition waiver agreement.



# Examples of International Partnership Programs

## Faculty Exchange Programs

- KAFU has enjoyed various examples of faculty exchange for the purposes of research or professional development in partnership with other educational institutions around the world.
- These are often short-term visits for the purpose of learning more about a certain aspect of a university's programs.



# Examples of International Partnership Programs

## Distance Education Programs

- KAFU has entered into various agreements where KAFU students can take certain courses via distance education from US partner universities.
- Another option being considered is for KAFU students to join live video-conference classes, hosted by a particular university and involving students from around the world.



# Examples of International Partnership Programs

## Graduate Degrees in Kazakhstan

- KAFU is interested in attracting international students to study in their Master's programs – primarily in Management and English Education.
- These programs are relatively inexpensive and can be largely carried out via distance education.
- These programs can also include individual programs for study of Central Asian language, culture and industry.

