

APPROVED
at a meeting of the Academic
Council of NJSC «KazNU named
after al-Farabi»
Protocol № 11 from 23.05.2025 y.

The program of the entrance exam for applicants to the PhD
for the group of educational programs
D064 - «International relations»

I. General provisions

1. The program was drawn up in accordance with the Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated October 31, 2018 No. 600 «On Approval of the Model Rules for Admission to Education in Educational Organizations Implementing Educational Programs of Higher and Postgraduate Education» (hereinafter referred to as the Model Rules).

2. The entrance exam for doctoral studies consists of writing an essay, an exam in the profile of a group of educational programs and an interview.

Блок	Баллы
1. Interview	30
2. Essay	20
3. Exam according to the profile of the group of the educational program	50
Total admission score	100/75

3. The duration of the entrance exam is 3 hours 10 minutes, during which the applicant writes an essay and answers the electronic examination ticket. The interview is conducted at the university premises before the entrance exam.

II. Procedure for the entrance examination

1. Applicants for doctoral studies in the group of educational programs D064 - «International relations» write a problematic / thematic essay. The volume of the essay is at least 250 words.

The purpose of the essay is to determine the level of analytical and creative abilities, expressed in the ability to build one's own argumentation based on theoretical knowledge, social and personal experience.

Types of essays:

- motivational essay revealing the motivation for research activities;
- scientific-analytical essay justifying the relevance and methodology of the planned research;
- problem/thematic essay reflecting various aspects of scientific knowledge in the subject area.

2. The electronic examination card consists of 3 questions

Topics for exam preparation according to the profile of the group of the educational program:

Course: "Current Regional Issues in the System of International Relations: Theoretical and Practical Approaches"

Topic 1. Theoretical Approaches to the Study of Regional Processes in the Context of Globalization

Subtopic 1. Theoretical research on geopolitics and regions.

Subtopic 2. Contemporary approaches to the role of international regions in the system of international relations.

Subtopic 3. Theories and concepts addressing international relations at the macro-regional, country-specific, and subregional levels (geopolitical, sociological, political-economic, and geographical theories and concepts).

Topic 2. New Trends in the Modern World and Regional Problems in International Relations

Subtopic 1. Regionalization as an objective process in contemporary international relations.

Subtopic 2. Regionalism: "Open regionalism" and "Closed regionalism".

Subtopic 3. Political and economic components of regional relations.

Topic 3. Peripheral Zones in the System of International Relations and Their Activation

Subtopic 1. Formation of a new world order based on real polycentrism.

Subtopic 2. Regions and complexes of regional and bilateral relations.

Subtopic 3. Formation of three global poles (macro-regions) of economic and technological development — North American (NAFTA), Western European (EU), and Asia-Pacific.

Topic 4. Regions and Regional Subsystems in the System of International Relations

Subtopic 1. The place of the region in the system of international relations; its economic, geopolitical, and civilizational characteristics.

Subtopic 2. Activation of the roles of China and Japan in international relations in the Asia-Pacific region (APR) at the beginning of the 21st century.

Subtopic 3. East Asia in the new geopolitical realities of the early 21st century.

Subtopic 4. Latin America in international relations.

Subtopic 5. Africa as a regional subsystem of international relations.

Topic 5. International Relations in Central Asia

Subtopic 1. Central Asia as a subregional subsystem of international relations.

Subtopic 2. Prospective integration strategies of Central Asian states into the global space.

Subtopic 3. Regional organizations in the post-Soviet space.

Topic 6. Integrative Regional Processes and Their Specifics

Subtopic 1. Trends and principles of regional integration.

Subtopic 2. New forms of interstate regional integration in the context of globalization.

Subtopic 3. Specifics of integration processes in Southeast Asia, the Americas, and the CIS.

Topic 7. Security Issues: Regional Conflicts and Their Characteristics in the Modern Stage

Subtopic 1. National, regional, and global security.

Subtopic 2. The role of traditional and non-traditional international relations actors in neutralizing "new threats" — states, international organizations, transnational corporations, NGOs, etc.

Subtopic 3. Major security challenges in Central Asia (extremism, Islamic radicalism, drug trafficking, illegal migration, etc.).

Subtopic 4. Global and regional conflicts and crises.

Course: "Regional Security System of Central Asia: Formation, Development, Prospects"

Topic 1. The Process of Globalization and Security Issues

Subtopic 1. Globalization as a historical process and its development stages.

Subtopic 2. Increasing interdependence among different levels of security.

Subtopic 3. Non-traditional security threats — international terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking, illegal arms trade.

Topic 2. General Security Problems at the Present Stage

Subtopic 1. Levels of security — personal/individual, group, national, regional, universal, international, global.

Subtopic 2. Major scientific schools studying security problems.

Subtopic 3. Main interpretations of the vector of changes in international relations: unipolar world, multipolar world.

Topic 3. Goals and Strategies of External Actors on the State of Regional Security

Subtopic 1. Current challenges and regional and national security of Central Asian countries.

Subtopic 2. Main trends of cooperation among Central Asian states in forming regional security structures.

Subtopic 3. Influence of external actors on the transformation of the regional security system in Central Asia.

Subtopic 4. Approaches of regional states to ensuring regional security.

Subtopic 5. Role of international structures in ensuring regional security in Central Asia.

Topic 4. Central Asia and Regional Security Issues

Subtopic 1. Non-traditional security threats — international terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking, illegal arms trade.

Subtopic 2. Influence of regional "power centers" on the state of regional security.

Subtopic 3. Membership of Central Asian countries in regional organizations.

Course: "Methodological Foundations of Research in Regional Studies"

Topic 1. Modern Regions as an Object of Study

Subtopic 1. Regions of the world as a special type of social and political relations and as a subject and object of study.

Subtopic 2. Main types of regional integration processes at the current stage.

Topic 2. Theories of International Relations: Concept, Specifics, Typology

Subtopic 1. Problems of international relations in political doctrines of N. Machiavelli, T. Hobbes, E. DeVattel, and C. von Clausewitz.

Subtopic 2. The role of states in international relations.

Subtopic 3. International regimes as mechanisms of cooperation and interconnection.

Topic 3. Information Support for Research on Regional Processes

Subtopic 1. Various types of information and data sets in the humanitarian knowledge field.

Subtopic 2. The role of information technologies in supporting applied political projects.

Topic 4. Systems Approach to the Study of Regional Processes

Subtopic 1. Main approaches to studying international systems: traditional-historical, historical-sociological, heuristic, mixed, structural, functional.

Subtopic 2. Laws governing the functioning of international systems.

Topic 5. International Processes

Subtopic 1. International conflicts and their specifics at the turn of the 21st century.

Subtopic 2. International cooperation and integration processes.

Topic 6. Methodology of Research on International and Regional Processes

Subtopic 1. The role of expert assessments in domestic and foreign policy practice.

Subtopic 2. SWOT analysis in the study of international relations.

Subtopic 3. Discourse analysis and its effectiveness in studying security issues.

III. List of Sources

Main:

1. Theory of International Relations at the Turn of the Century / Ed. by K. Booth and S. Smith. – Moscow, 2002.
2. Tsygankov P.A. Theory of International Relations. Textbook. Moscow, 2003.
3. Lebedeva M.M. World Politics: Textbook for Universities. 2nd ed., revised and supplemented. Moscow: Aspect Press, 2007.
4. Modern World Politics: Applied Analysis: Textbook / Ed. by A.D. Bogaturov. 2nd ed., revised and supplemented. Moscow: Aspect Press, 2010.
5. Modern International Relations: Textbook / Ed. by A.V. Torkunov, A.V. Malgin. Moscow: Aspect Press, 2012.
6. Foreign Policy of the CIS Countries. Textbook / Coll. of authors, ed. by D.A. Degtyarev, K.P. Kurylyev. Moscow: Aspect Press, 2019. – 496 p.
7. Laumulin M.T. Central Asia in an Era of Change. Nur-Sultan, 2020.

Additional:

1. Laumulin M. Central Asia in Foreign Political Science and Global Geopolitics. Almaty, 2009.
2. Mikhaylenko E.B. "Old" and "New" Regionalism: Theoretical Discourse. Yekaterinburg, Ural University Press, 2014.
3. Akimbekov S.M. The Afghan Knot and Security Problems of Central Asia. Almaty, 1998.
4. Central Asia Today: Challenges and Threats / Ed. by K.L. Syroezhkin, Doctor of Political Sciences, Professor: Monograph. Almaty: KISI under the President of the RK, 2011.
5. Regional Organizations: Types and Development Logic. St. Petersburg, 2016.
6. Gubaydullina M.Sh., Chebotarev A.E. The European Union and Central Asian Countries: Opportunities and Prospects for Cooperation in Light of the New Strategy. Almaty, 2021. – 300 p.
7. Foreign Policy Orientation of Central Asian Countries in the Light of Global Transformation of the World System of International Relations. Ed. by A.A. Knyazev. Bishkek, 2009.
8. European Union and Eurasian Economic Union: Long-Term Dialogue and Prospects of Agreements. St. Petersburg, 2016.
9. Denisov I.E. The Celestial Empire Looks West // Contours of Globalization. 2016. Issue 6, Vol. 9. P. 20.

10. Arystanbekova A.Kh. Globalization of World Politics. Almaty, 2007.