NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY

ASTANA · KAZAKHSTAN

NU-PVPP

President's Visiting Professor Program

An invitation to leading international scholars to work with NU in Astana



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

Closing date · 15 December 2026

provostoffice@nu.edu.kz

ABOUT NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY

A young university with global ambition

Nazarbayev University (NU) is Central Asia's leading research university. Its research, teaching and innovation are closely tied to the development of Kazakhstan and the wider region, and it aims to compete internationally while staying relevant at home.

Ranked 375–400 by Times Higher Education at just sixteen years old, NU aims to join the world's top 200 universities within five years. To get there, NU is investing in research, PhD students' scholarships, new academic programs and leadership, including the region's premier science and technology park and a global campaign to recruit senior professors.

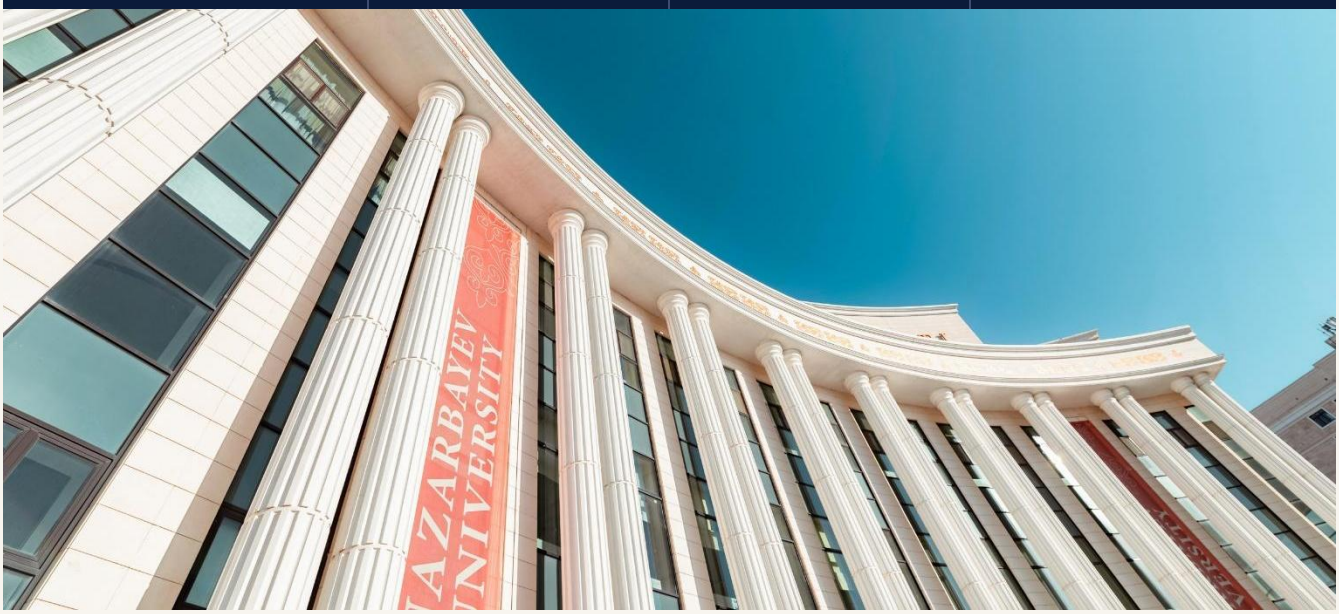
NU RESEARCH IN NUMBERS · 2026

82%+
of publications in top-quartile journals

45%
in top-decile journals

23.5%
among the 10% most-cited publications

50+
countries represented; two-thirds of faculty are international



University Academic leadership

Prof. Waqar Ahmad
President



Prof. Rehan Sadiq
Provost



Prof. Huck Hui Ng
Vice President for Medicine



Dr. Aida Sagintayeva
Vice Provost for Academic Planning and Budgeting



Prof. Sam Smidt
Vice Provost for Academic Affairs



Prof. Bjorn Birgisson
Vice Provost for Research and Innovation





THE PROGRAM

Bringing leading scholars to Astana

The President’s Visiting Professor Program brings international scholars to NU to work with our faculty on research and teaching. Each visit is tied to one of NU’s priority research areas and planned around deliverables agreed in advance: joint research, teaching and mentoring, and partnerships that continue after the visit ends.

Join us in person, even briefly. Focused time together builds trust that turns shared ideas into ambitious joint research and collaborations.

Six objectives

01
Raise research quality through joint work with leading scholars

02
Improve teaching and update the curriculum

03
Build international partnerships that last

04
Support the development of faculty and early-career researchers

05
Raise NU’s international profile

06
Give NU students opportunity to have direct contact with leading researchers

THREE TIERS

Three ways to join us, depending on career stage and purpose

I Distinguished Visiting Professors

Internationally recognized academic leaders

Scholars whose work has shaped their fields: fellows of national academies, major award winners, editors of leading journals and heads of large research programs. Visits are short and centered on public lectures, masterclasses and starting new collaborations with NU faculty.

II Visiting Professors

Established scholars with strong international profiles

Researchers with active grants who work with NU faculty and Research Centers over a longer period, on joint projects, co-authored papers, co-supervised PhD students and joint funding applications.

III Visiting Fellows

Promising early-career academics

Postdoctoral researchers and assistant or associate professors. Fellows focus on new approaches to teaching, early-stage research and long-term collaboration, and the program can lead to a faculty position at NU.

ALSO WELCOME

Spend your sabbatical at NU

Up to five international scholars each year

Join a School or Research Center for a semester or longer. NU provides a hosting package:

- **Office and laboratory access**
- **Research support**
- **Contribution toward travel**
- **Contribution toward accommodation**

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS

The fields we want to grow

Most visitors are chosen from the fields below, which follow NU's strategy. The Office of the Provost updates the list periodically.



Science, Engineering & Computing

Advanced materials and nanotechnology
Artificial intelligence and machine learning
Petroleum and mining engineering
Robotics and autonomous systems
Energy systems and energy transition
Smart infrastructure and digital construction
Nuclear, space and aerospace engineering
Advanced manufacturing



Health & Life Sciences

Biomedical science and engineering
Precision medicine and genomics
Public health and health systems
Bioinformatics and digital health



Environment, Sustainability & Resilience

Climate change and adaptation
Water management and security
Environmental engineering
Circular economy and lifecycle analysis
Sustainable agriculture



Social Sciences, Business & Policy

Public policy and governance
Economics and development studies
Education leadership
Ethics, technology and society
Business and entrepreneurship
Society and politics

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

What we expect from each visit

- Joint publications with NU faculty in high-quality journals
- National and international grant proposals, co-developed and submitted
- Doctoral students and early-career faculty mentored or co-supervised
- Development of new courses and innovation in teaching practices
- Lasting partnerships: MoUs, joint centers and exchange arrangements
- Public lectures for NU students and staff

Selection: one cycle a year

1 **Call** for nominations and applications

2 **Review** by the Visiting Professor Committee

3 **Offers** and visits scheduled across the year

4 **Delivery** of the agreed engagements

5 **Annual review** of outcomes

Selection is based on strategic alignment, academic excellence and expected outcomes. Candidates may be nominated by Schools, Research Centers, Deans, Vice Provosts or the Provost.

HOW TO APPLY

Join us in Astana

Send your academic CV and a cover letter to the Office of the Provost, outlining your research field, the tier you are applying for and the engagement you propose.

EMAIL

provostoffice@nu.edu.kz

CLOSING DATE

15 December 2026

