MIND | MAQSUT NARIKBAYEV INSTITUTE FOR NETWORK AND DEVELOPMENT

MNU
RESEARCH & INNOVATION NEWS DIGEST | 10/2026

The MNU Monthly Digest highlights key events, achievements, and initiatives in the field of science and innovation.

The University continues to strengthen its position as a leading research center, bringing together scholars and practitioners from Kazakhstan and around the world to address pressing contemporary challenges through the development of partnerships, interdisciplinary research, and collaborations.



MIND | MAQSUT NARIKBAYEV INSTITUTE FOR NETWORK AND DEVELOPMENT

WELCOME ADDRESS

«Maqsut Narikbayev University is actively fostering a culture of open research, interdisciplinary projects, and the integration of artificial intelligence into legal and management education.
In the coming months, we will focus on launching the Research Collaboration Platform, supporting participation in Horizon Europe, and further developing the MIND Talks network as a platform for the exchange of academic ideas.

I would like to thank all faculty members, researchers, and students for your contributions to advancing MNU's research potential!»



SERGEY PEN

Deputy Chairman of the MNU Board
for Science, Innovation, and Artificial Intelligence

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



OLZHAS SEITZHANOV

TEACHING PROFESSOR MNU

The article “Differentiation of Responsibility for Laser Interference” examines emerging technological threats to aviation security and proposes a differentiated approach to legal liability for laser interference with aircraft crews.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE

NURZHAN YESHNIYAZOV

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MNU

The article on the 2005 Hague Choice of Court Convention and the 2019 Hague Judgments Convention discusses their ratification and implications for recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments in civil and commercial matters.



READ THE FULL ARTICLE

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



ZHANDOS ZHETIBAYEV

TEACHING PROFESSOR MNU

The article on voluntary refusal of bank loans and microcredits examines the legal nature of an opt-out request and the consequences when lenders disregard the restriction.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE

ROMAN MELNYK

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MNU

The article “Acts of Official Interpretation of Normative Legal Acts” addresses problems of applying official legal interpretations and the scope of judicial review of such acts.



READ THE FULL ARTICLE

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



DANA UTEGEN

TEACHING PROFESSOR MNU

The article on artificial intelligence in Kazakhstan's public administration identifies personal-data risks and safeguards needed to preserve public trust. It proposes legal and institutional measures balancing digital efficiency with individual rights.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE

KANAT ABDULLA

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MNU

The study “Environmental Pollution, Health, and Economic Development” examines the relationship between air pollution, health, human capital and economic growth. The association between mortality and income weakens after accounting for education and energy use.



READ THE FULL ARTICLE

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



NIKITA LYUTOV

ASSOICATE PROFESSOR MNU

The article “Decent Work in the Platform Economy” explores international labour standards and national legislation in the Eurasian Economic Union, highlighting the need to adapt employment protections to platform work.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE

WORKSHOP
2ND ANNUAL WORKSHOP – RIGHT TO STRIKE NATIONAL PROFILES

At the second annual workshop of the Right to Strike National Profiles project, held in Brussels on 10–11 September, Nikita Lyutov, Associate Professor at Maqsut Narikbayev University, presented on legal developments concerning the right to strike in Central Asia.

LEARN MORE

SEMINAR
CENTRAL ASIAN CARE ECONOMY SEMINAR

At the Central Asian Care Economy Seminar, held in Almaty on 29–30 October, Nikita Lyutov spoke about protecting care workers from violence and harassment in the workplace. He highlighted the need to align Kazakhstan’s laws with international labour standards.

CONFERENCE
KAZAN DIGITAL WEEK

At Kazan Digital Week, held on 29–31 October, Nikita Lyutov presented on the new ILO Convention on platform work and the legal frameworks of Eurasian Economic Union member states. His presentation was part of the session “Digital Technologies in Labour and Related Legal Relations.”

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS





GULFIYA KUCHUMOVA

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MNU

DINARA MUKHAMEJANOVA

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MNU

On 27–28 October 2026, Nazarbayev University in Astana hosted the International Teaching Conference 2026, which focused on partnerships to improve the quality of higher education. Gulfiya Kuchumova and Dinara Mukhamedzhanova of Maqsut Narikbayev University gave a joint presentation on developing research-based teacher education in Kazakhstan. Gulfiya Kuchumova also moderated a session on digital learning, innovation and evidence-based teaching.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE

GRANTS AND RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES



SWISS GOVERNMENT EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Application deadline: **27 Nov 2026, 23:59 CET**
Duration: **6–12 months for research, up to 36 for a PhD**
University: **Swiss university or research institute**
Eligibility: **Master's graduates with a Swiss supervisor's support**

Description: Research stay or doctoral studies starting 1 Sep 2027

Funding: CHF 2,450 per month, health insurance and CHF 600 towards a housing deposit

More details about the grant

JAPAN FOUNDATION — JAPANESE STUDIES FELLOWSHIP 2027

Application deadline: **1 Dec 2026, 13:00 JST**
Duration: **21–89 days or 4–12 months**
University: **Japan Foundation and a host in Japan**
Eligibility: **PhD researchers and doctoral candidates who have completed coursework**

Description: Japan-related research in the humanities and social sciences

Funding: Round-trip airfare, monthly stipend and additional allowances

More details about the grant

GRANTS AND RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

GATES CAMBRIDGE SCHOLARSHIP 2027

Application deadline: 8 Dec 2026 or 6 Jan 2027, 23:59 GMT, depending on the course
Duration: Course length, up to four years for a PhD
University: University of Cambridge
Eligibility: Citizens of countries other than the UK

Description: Scholarship for eligible master's and doctoral courses

Funding: Tuition, living costs, airfare, visa and immigration health surcharge

More details about the grant

HUMBOLDT RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Application deadline: Opens 15 Nov 2026. Closing date unspecified
Duration: 6–24 months for postdocs, 6–18 for experienced researchers
University: Host university or institute in Germany
Eligibility: Postdocs within four years and experienced researchers within 12 years of their PhD

Description: Independent research with support from a host researcher

Funding: €3,000 or €3,600 per month by category, plus possible allowances

More details about the fellowship

ITEC SHORT COURSES IN INDIA

Application deadline: Varies by course
Duration: Varies by course
University: Indian universities and ITEC training centres
Eligibility: Professionals aged 25–45 with five years' experience and working English

Description: Short professional development courses. Faculty apply through their university

Funding: Tuition, airfare, accommodation, stipend, books and study visits

More details about the grant

UN INTERNATIONAL LAW FELLOWSHIP

Application deadline: 2027 deadline to be announced
Duration: Summer 2027, exact dates pending
University: UN and The Hague Academy of International Law
Eligibility: International law professionals, especially public officials and lecturers

Description: Lectures and seminars at the Peace Palace in The Hague

Funding: Airfare, accommodation, insurance, registration fee, materials and stipend

More details about the grant

GRANTS AND RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

UN REGIONAL COURSE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

Application deadline: **2027 deadline to be announced**
Duration: **About 3.5 weeks, 2027 dates pending**
University: **UN and ESCAP, Bangkok**
Eligibility: **Asia-Pacific lawyers, including those from Kazakhstan, with international law experience and fluent English**

Description: Regional training in international law

Funding: Airfare, accommodation, insurance, materials and stipend for funded participants

More details about the grant

MIND ANALYTICAL REPORT



Universities as a Driving Force of Innovation: Rethinking the Role of Higher Education in Kazakhstan. The report examines the gap between research investment and innovation outcomes. In 2024, Kazakhstan's R&D expenditure was 0.16% of GDP, compared with the OECD average of 2.7%. It analyses research governance, intellectual property, technology transfer and university autonomy, and proposes a three-stage reform agenda.

Read the full report

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