Going the extra mile strengthens the partnership in Kazakhstan

Successful link extended

Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing is to continue working with Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan, after having its contract extended for three years.

First appointed in 2015 to develop and deliver bespoke admissions tests for the University’s Foundation Year Programme (FYP), Admissions Testing has been retained by Nazarbayev. They feel the team always goes the extra mile, offering ‘services beyond the agreement’. Admissions Testing’s collaborative style of working, along with its fast responses and understanding of the University’s needs, have been key.

The Admissions Testing team delivers the University-assessed test content, which, for 2020, includes critical thinking and problem solving, as well as mathematics. It also handles all the exam processing and issues their results.

The success of the partnership had already led to the original, one-year agreement being extended by three years – up to 2019 – and it has now been extended for another three years.

Robert Doebler, General Director of the University’s Centre for Preparatory Studies, said: ‘I’ve been impressed with the expertise and “down to earth” nature of the [Admissions Testing] team. Everyone is very open to ideas and they listen well. We have developed friendships as well as a partnership.’

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About Nazarbayev University

Nazarbayev is a modern, rapidly growing university in Nur-Sultan – the capital of Kazakhstan. It aims to become internationally renowned, mixing education, research and innovation. Teaching the next generation of leaders of Kazakhstan in science, public administration and various professions, the University is helping the country’s future development.

About Admissions Testing Solutions

We develop and deliver tailored, research-based admissions solutions to meet specific requirements. We support governments, educational institutions and employers around the world to select applicants with the greatest potential for success, and provide applicants with an equal opportunity to show their potential. We work with you to understand your individual challenges, and provide solutions based on our extensive experience to help you achieve your strategic objectives.

About Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing

We are part of the University of Cambridge and have been working with UK and worldwide universities, governments and employers for more than 15 years. Our admissions assessments are a global mark of excellence that set the quality standard. Backed by extensive research, our admissions tests give your applicants the opportunity to prove they have what it takes and can help enhance your selection process. We have a global network of centres that spans 150 countries, making it easy to assess applicants wherever they may be.

Driving the knowledge economy

Nazarbayev University was founded in 2010 as a result of a presidential initiative. With the country experiencing economic growth, it needed to establish a benchmark for higher education institutions, to drive the knowledge economy in the region.

Admissions Testing began the test-development process in mid-2015. This started with an extensive period of consultation and a full needs analysis, to understand the local educational context and tailor the tests accordingly.

Working to international academic standards, and with courses delivered in English, the University has a growing status which means there is keen competition for places. It only wants to recruit the ‘brightest and the best’, however, with the aim of developing Kazakhstan’s skills base and producing employable future leaders and entrepreneurs.

Some students applying to the FYP are only 16 years old, so the foundation year gives them a chance to grow and mature, and to develop academic and time-management skills. The admissions tests help the University identify the candidates most likely to thrive in this environment.

Around 3,500 students start the admissions process, with 1,100 passing the test. Applicants’ International English Language Testing System (IELTS) scores are also taken into account, as a good level of competency is needed to get onto the course.

In the past year, the University has also started directing prospective candidates to an online learning platform, to help them prepare for the admissions test. Admissions Testing set up the platform and provided the content and resources. Students are encouraged to register early, so they can get the link and give themselves the best possible chance of exam success. And for extra reassurance, an explanatory video is available for parents.

Admissions Testing provides preparation materials, oversees delivery of the tests in 16 cities across Kazakhstan, and gives the University statistical analyses of candidates’ performance alongside their test results.

The advantage to Nazarbayev University of using admissions tests is that they provide a secure, fair method of assessing all applicants, and bring transparency to the process – reassuring students, parents and schools alike.

Find out more

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