



APPROVED BY
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Member of the Board – Vice-Rector for
Sustainable Social Development

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**POLICY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
OF THE SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT
OF THE NON-PROFIT JOINT-STOCK COMPANY
“AL-FARABI KAZAKH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

INTRODUCTION

In modern conditions, a paradigm shift is taking place in the education and upbringing of youth. The primary focus is shifting toward viewing the individual not as an object of educational influence, but as a subject of self-development and self-education. Within this new paradigm, it is particularly important to direct key efforts toward fostering self-education, self-development, and self-organization, as well as creating conditions in which students not only receive pedagogical influence but also actively participate in the educational process themselves.

The Social Development Policy developed by the Department of Social and Educational Work is based on the following key factors:

- Firstly, the need to establish new strategic goals and priorities in working with youth, in accordance with the instructions of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, No. 21-02/3693 of July 11, 2022, regarding the development of the *Concept of the State Youth Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023–2029*, as well as in execution of Paragraph 3.1 of the *Action Plan for the Implementation of the Election Program of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan “A Fair Kazakhstan – for Everyone and Forever.”*

- Secondly, the need for more active involvement of young people in diverse social practices, which would not only allow for the fuller realization of the potential of young employees and students, but also strengthen their confidence in their own abilities and in their future.

- Thirdly, the need to support youth initiatives within the university, to establish effective feedback mechanisms between youth organizations and the university administration, enabling the leadership to monitor the social well-being of students and young researchers, respond to their needs, and foster the harmonious development of future leaders.

This Policy reflects the strategic direction of the State aimed at improving social, legal, and organizational conditions for the development and realization of the personal and professional potential of young people, and defines the goals, objectives, main priorities, and measures for implementing youth policy at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University.

Within the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the University is entrusted with tasks to intensify efforts aimed at addressing a range of issues related to youth socialization and development. Specific activities, indicators, and performance metrics in the field of social development—aimed at supporting youth—are integrated with global objectives concerning the provision of quality and accessible education, sustainable employment, and economic growth.

The Social Development Policy of the Department of Social Development and Youth Work of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University has been developed in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan “On Education”, the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan “On State Youth Policy”, the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan “On Combating Corruption”, the Concept of the State Youth Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023–2029, the Development Program of the Non-Profit Joint-Stock Company “Al-Farabi Kazakh National

University” for 2022–2026, the Corporate Culture Code, the UN SDGs, as well as the Regulations on the Department of Social Development and Youth Work.

The mission of the Department of Social Development and Youth Work is to create a socially responsible environment aimed at developing the University as a space with favorable conditions for education, research, employment, and leisure for young people.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS OF THE POLICY

The main goal of the Policy is to create an integrated system for the social, spiritual, and moral development of young people, aimed at fostering active citizenship, a sense of responsibility, patriotism, and readiness to participate in socially significant initiatives.

Key Objectives:

1. To foster value orientations among youth based on the ideals of humanism, justice, rule of law, and respect for national culture.
2. To develop leadership qualities, creativity, and social responsibility among students and young employees.
3. To create favorable conditions for the realization of personal potential, social adaptation, and successful integration of young people into professional and public life.
4. To support student initiatives, strengthen self-governance institutions, and encourage youth engagement in socially beneficial activities.
5. To improve mechanisms for informational, methodological, and organizational support of youth projects and programs.
6. To ensure interdepartmental coordination among structures responsible for youth policy implementation, as well as partnerships with state and public organizations.

Mechanisms for Policy Implementation:

- Development and approval of annual action plans for the implementation of the social policy.
- Systematic monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of educational and social programs.
- Conducting sociological research, round tables, forums, and conferences on current issues of youth development.
- Introduction of mentoring programs, as well as volunteer and patriotic movements.
- Promotion and recognition of best practices in student self-governance, charitable, and educational projects.
- Organization of effective cooperation among departments, faculties, and youth associations to ensure a unified strategy for social development.

ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION

Achieved results

The University has created extensive opportunities for the realization of students’ intellectual potential. Social work with students has been carried out in accordance with the approved plans of the Member of the Management Board – Vice-Rector for

Sustainable Social Development, as well as the respective structural divisions, faculties, and the Committee of Youth Organizations.

Within the framework of the Development Program of the Non-Commercial Joint Stock Company “Al-Farabi Kazakh National University” for 2022–2026, a series of projects have been implemented to foster a tolerant socio-cultural environment, provide support to students, and encourage their participation in socially significant, creative, athletic, volunteer, and other forms of activity.

In the 2024–2025 academic year, 43% of full-time students received various forms of social support. As part of the implementation of the University’s social policy, a systematic and comprehensive approach has been introduced to improve the learning, living, and leisure conditions of the youth community.

Social Support and Educational Work

The University pays particular attention to organizing educational and extracurricular activities with students, as well as improving their social well-being. In this regard, the following measures have been implemented:

- Systematic organization of educational and extracurricular events with students;
- Comprehensive medical and fluorographic examinations of staff and students;
- Regular updating of databases on employees and students belonging to socially vulnerable categories;
- Accounting and payment of departmental scholarships and social benefits;
- Coordination of the “Healthy Lifestyle” program implementation;
- Subscription of University veterans to national publications and provision of informational support;
- Preparation and publication of condolences for employees in mass media;
- Preparation of social orders and administrative decisions (for the Day of Older Persons, student benefits, monthly payments for orphans, etc.);
- Continuous monitoring of accommodation for students in need of dormitory placement;
- Participation in the commission reviewing applications for tuition fee discounts.

Each year, students receive social support in the form of tuition discounts under 29 categories, including:

- Applicants — from 10% to 25%;
- Athletes — from 25% to 100%, depending on their contribution to the University’s achievements.

Additionally, social assistance and benefits are provided to students from regions affected by natural disasters, as well as to foreign citizens from socially disadvantaged countries.

University students are also provided with discounts for dormitory accommodation, vouchers to health camps and resorts, free access to sports sections, monthly meal coupons, financial assistance, and named scholarships.

Participation of students in research projects and scientific conferences is financed through the University’s extrabudgetary funds.

Student Services and Psychological Support

The University successfully operates the “Keremet” Student Service Center and a modern sports complex. The Medical Center provides comprehensive healthcare services

to both students and staff. The Psychological Support Office offers consultations in Kazakh, Russian, and English on issues related to career guidance, family relationships, and the adaptation of international students. Faculty members of the Department of Psychology regularly conduct trainings and master classes on topics such as academic adaptation, personal development, and team building.

Inclusion, Equality, and Diversity Development

The University has established a system of resources and support that ensures equal opportunities for the development of every student and staff member, regardless of origin, religious beliefs, gender, or other individual characteristics. A dedicated Office for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion is in operation, focusing on gender balance, the development of women's leadership, and the creation of an inclusive and safe environment based on mutual respect and trust. These initiatives contribute to strengthening the university culture and unlocking the potential of each member of the academic community.

Dormitory and Accommodation System

The university campus operates 15 dormitories. Due to the limited number of available places, part of the student population is accommodated in partner hostels across the city.

The process of application submission and settlement is fully automated:

- First-year students submit paper applications through the Admissions Committee;
- Senior students apply through the “Univer” electronic system.

Priority for accommodation is given to students eligible for social benefits: orphans, students with disabilities, students with parents with disabilities, and students with excellent academic performance.

The distribution of dormitory places is carried out in accordance with the student enrollment by faculties.

Applications are reviewed by a faculty commission chaired by the Dean, which includes Deputy Deans, Heads of Departments, and representatives of the student body (Student Dean, Heads of Student Organizations).

Following faculty review, the proposal is submitted through the “Univer” system to the Rectorate for approval by the Director of the Youth Affairs Department and the Vice-Rector for Social Development.

Students can obtain information about accommodation through faculty offices, information boards, or social media. Settlement is finalized after the issuance of an electronic order, signing of the accommodation agreement, and payment of fees.

As part of the Social Partnership Program with student organizations, the Committee of Youth Organizations actively participates in all university-wide events. The Committee, established to ensure the effective implementation of youth policy and to support students' social engagement, includes the following structures:

- Student Senate;
- “Sunkar” Trade Union of Students and Master's Students;
- “Komek” Public Foundation;

- “Ashyk Zhurek” Volunteer Movement;
- Higher Student Council;
- “League of Volunteers” Public Foundation;
- Student Scientific Society;
- “Sanaly Urpaq” Student Club;
- “Zhastar Rukhy” Youth Wing;
- Student Law Enforcement Squad;
- “Altyn Sapa” Intellectual Debate Club;
- Student Bureau for the Bologna Process;
- ENACTUS Student Entrepreneurship Club.

At the faculty level, Maslikhats, Elder Councils, Trade Union Bureaus, and Dormitory Student Councils operate actively.

In the new academic year, the “Farabi Student Assembly” joined the structure of the Committee of Youth Organizations.

Student self-governance bodies participate in public councils and university commissions, assess education quality, analyze living conditions, improve the reward system, and contribute to enhancing student discipline and culture.

Together with the Committee of Youth Organizations, numerous educational, cultural, and moral events are held annually to promote spiritual and patriotic education among students.

These include festive evenings dedicated to Republic Day, Independence Day, International Women’s Day (March 8), the “Zhas Talant” Talent Competition, “Altyn Sapa” Debate Club Casting, creative festivals, and student organization fairs.

The university hosts 269 student clubs and associations, engaging more than half of the student body. These include patriotic, professional, scientific, creative, and sports clubs and schools.

The total number of active students is 13,436, representing 42.78% of the overall student population.

Sports Infrastructure and Achievements

Sports clubs and sections are organized for students and staff in various disciplines, including togyzkumalak, chess, table tennis, badminton, football, wrestling, sambo, judo, volleyball, basketball, and fencing.

The university’s sports complex includes the modern “Zhan Dosym” Tennis Center, which features six courts and a grandstand for 165 spectators. The court surfaces fully comply with the standards established by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

The University Sports Club and the Department of Physical Education and Sports coordinate student participation in Student League competitions. The university teams in basketball, togyzkumalak, Kazakh wrestling, and volleyball regularly participate in national and international tournaments, achieving top rankings and prize-winning results.

In addition, the university operates a Recruitment Office responsible for coordinating efforts to attract international students.

The university carries out its activities in alignment with the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), reaffirming its commitment to the principles of social responsibility, quality education, and sustainable development.

Principles of Social Development of the Department for Social and Educational Work

Social work with youth is based on the following fundamental principles:

- Responsibility of students for exercising their constitutional rights and fulfilling their duties in the spheres of education and public life;
- Recognition of students as equal partners in shaping and implementing the university's youth policy;
- Priority of cultural, moral, and spiritual values;
- Civic engagement, responsibility, and diligence;
- Interfaith harmony and interethnic tolerance.

Key Approaches

The implementation of the Policy presupposes coordinated action in the field of state youth policy, focusing on the following key areas:

- civic activism;
- patriotic education;
- promotion of a healthy lifestyle;
- development of culture and education.

MAIN PRIORITIES AND AREAS OF SOCIAL WORK WITH YOUTH

Priority 1. Development of the intellectual, creative, and innovative potential of youth, increasing their competitiveness

One of the most important tasks of the higher education system is the creation of a "core of national intellect," the training of specialists capable of competing at the international level. Important qualities of a highly competitive specialist should include creative thinking, the ability to process knowledge, generate new solutions, technologies, and innovations.

The formation of these qualities requires, above all, the creation of prerequisites for the organic integration of university graduates into innovative scientific, economic, social, and cultural activities, integration of academic and research work of students, organic connection of the educational process with extracurricular activities, and timely identification of students' creative potential.

In this regard, the following main areas of work with youth are outlined:

- strengthening the motivation for research work among undergraduates and master's students; development of a system of measures to encourage student involvement in paid research projects, as well as a system of targeted support for talented master's students, doctoral candidates, and young researchers;
- promoting the practical implementation of students' and young scientists' scientific developments through the creation, support, and coordination of innovation programs, and holding intellectual creativity fairs;
- providing support to talented youth in national and international youth creativity competitions;
- development and creation of an information system aimed at improving the quality of youth science;
- constant improvement of educational services;
- strengthening the language training of students;

- increasing the social mobility of students and young researchers by developing international relations in the field of educational programs, retraining, and internships at foreign educational institutions;
- organizing and conducting contests, exhibitions, festivals, shows, concerts, symposia, readings, and conferences to identify and promote creative achievements of university youth;
- increasing the demand for graduates and consumer satisfaction with the quality of educational services by developing and implementing programs and activities aimed at professional self-determination of youth in the labor market, and developing models and forms of youth involvement in labor and economic activities;
- further development and popularization of student construction teams and other forms of labor brigades;
- organizing and conducting professional seminars-presentations, internships, and student practices aimed at employment and professional adaptation of young scientists and specialists;
- formation of a personnel reserve from among young specialists, scientists, and graduates of KazNU.

Priority 2. Formation of citizenship, patriotism, a culture of healthy lifestyle, and continuity of traditions among youth

The spiritual and physical health of youth is a strategic asset of the country and an important factor in its modern development. Introducing youth to the spiritual culture of their people, studying the historical past of our country, and strengthening the atmosphere of friendship, peace, and harmony in society should instill in the younger generation a sense of pride in our common homeland — the Republic of Kazakhstan. A special role in the spiritual and patriotic education of youth is given to the study of the state language. An important direction in the spiritual, moral, and patriotic education of youth should be protecting them from the negative influence of religious extremism and fanaticism; preventing the spread of antisocial behavior among youth, and crime prevention.

This priority includes the following main areas of work with youth:

- development and implementation of university patriotic education programs with youth participation;
- organizing activities aimed at building immunity among students to destructive religious ideologies, improving socio-political literacy, and preventing the spread of extremism, social, national, and religious intolerance among youth;
- organizing events to instill humanistic values in student youth, and broad use of the ideological potential of state and national holidays;
- conducting activities aimed at fostering a negative attitude toward corruption among youth;
- fostering a culture of service to society through the development of the volunteer movement and participation in various charitable projects;
- increasing civic engagement through organizing various campaigns and developing discussion platforms;
- ensuring the participation of veterans' organizations in the patriotic and civic education of youth;
- promoting the history of the university among youth, fostering intergenerational continuity, developing traditions, and disseminating information about its outstanding alumni;

- expanding youth health and sports clubs and sections;
- conducting activities that foster among youth a need for physical activity, sports, and tourism, promoting health and strengthening student sports;
- conducting informational and advocacy work to prevent drug addiction, alcoholism, and antisocial behavior among youth.

Priority 3. Development of Student Self-Government

Student self-government is one of the ways to prepare active citizens for life in a legal and democratic society; therefore, the development of student self-government at the university, which aids in the personal development of students, is of great importance. Support and encouragement of positive public youth initiatives contribute to the development of democratic culture, foster a sense of patriotism, leadership qualities, and positively influence the socialization process of young people. It is within public organizations that the most favorable conditions are created for the realization of the economic, innovative, and creative activity of the younger generation. The student leadership is viewed by the university administration as a partner working to ensure a well-organized educational process, to stimulate student life, and to maintain communication between the administration and students. Today, at Al-Farabi KazNU, the Youth Affairs Committee leadership is the main organizer and initiator of numerous socially significant events at the faculties and in university dormitories.

To further strengthen student self-government, the following measures are necessary:

- increasing student participation in managing education quality and decision-making aimed at improving student life;
- developing a motivation system for students to engage in active participation in university self-government;
- developing regulatory and legal acts at KazNU aimed at improving the interaction between student self-government bodies and university administrative structures;
- organizing and conducting joint meetings and discussions between university administration and student leaders;
- promoting student achievements within the student community, creating a database of student activity indicators, and organizing a student leadership school;
- enabling university students to participate in national and city-wide youth programs and projects;
- improving social work with students and assisting those in difficult life situations;
- further developing a student reward system for active civic engagement.

Priority 4. Improvement of the Educational Process and Social Conditions for Students

As part of the implementation of the development strategy aimed at preparing a new generation of competitive and highly qualified specialists, particular attention is given not only to enhancing the educational and upbringing process of students, but also to improving living conditions in dormitories, ensuring effective leisure activities, and strengthening students' health.

To achieve these goals, the university is gradually equipping faculties and research laboratories with modern equipment and educational tools. To improve the quality of the educational process, interactive technologies are being introduced, and laboratories and lecture halls are being fitted with advanced technical facilities.

To promote a healthy lifestyle and physical activity among students, the material and technical base of the sports complex and the Department of Physical Education is being upgraded, and the sports infrastructure is continuously improved. These measures contribute to the development of mass sports and physical culture among students.

A comprehensive set of measures is being implemented to improve the social and living conditions of students.

The Action Plan to improve the conditions of study and accommodation in dormitories includes the following:

- reconstruction and major renovation of dormitory buildings;
- allocation of additional places and construction of new dormitories;
- further equipping of laboratories and lecture halls with modern interactive technologies;
- improving the quality and accessibility of food services in university canteens and cafes;
- development of service infrastructure (laundries, ironing facilities, minor repair services, etc.);
- enhancement of the system of cultural, creative, and sports events to organize meaningful student leisure;
- improvement of the organization of students' summer recreation and practical training.

Video surveillance, fire safety, and sanitary control systems are being introduced in dormitories to create a safe and comfortable living environment. Mechanisms of social support for students contribute to improving their welfare as well as their spiritual and physical development.

All undertaken measures aim to ensure comfortable and safe learning conditions, to unleash students' creative and professional potential, and to foster personal growth.

Organization and Control over the Implementation of the Policy

The effective implementation of the provisions of this Policy and systematic control over their fulfillment are assigned to the following structural divisions:

- Member of the Management Board – Vice-Rector for Sustainable Social Development;
- Department for Social and Educational Work;
- Committee of Youth Organizations.

These divisions, within their areas of competence, ensure the implementation of the main directions of the Policy and take measures aimed at increasing its effectiveness.

The mechanisms for implementation and control include:

- systematic analysis of the progress in implementing the Action Plan for the Policy and submission of proposals for its adjustment, if necessary;
- informational, organizational, and methodological support for the Policy's implementation;
- coordination of interaction among the entities responsible for executing the Action Plan;
- preparation of an annual analytical report on the achievement of the Policy's goals and objectives, and submission of it to the university management;

- development of proposals to improve students' social and living conditions, and to enhance the effectiveness of educational and upbringing processes;
- preparation of recommendations for the improvement and renewal of Policy directions when required.