

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

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Student Support Policy for Low-Income Families
Al-Farabi Kazakh National University
(2025–2026 Academic Year)

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1. General Provisions

1.1. The present Policy establishes the objectives, principles, and mechanisms for supporting students originating from low-income families, with the aim of ensuring equal access to higher education and facilitating successful academic completion.

1.2. This Policy has been developed in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan (adopted on August 30, 1995, with subsequent amendments), the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan “On Education” (dated July 27, 2007, No. 319-III, as amended in 2023), the State Program for the Development of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2020–2025, as well as the university’s internal regulatory documents.

1.3. The primary purpose of this Policy is to establish conditions that ensure equal opportunities for obtaining quality higher education, regardless of the socio-economic background of the student’s family.

2. Goals and Objectives of the Policy

2.1. Main goals:

- To ensure access to higher education for citizens from low-income families.
- To increase the enrollment rate of students from this category.
- To create conditions for successful learning and completion of academic programs.

2.2. Key objectives:

- To define clear criteria for identifying students belonging to the “low-income” category.
- To develop and implement mechanisms for social, academic, and financial support.
- To maintain statistical records and monitor the proportion of students from this category.
- To assess the effectiveness of the support measures provided.

3. Criteria for Identifying Students from Low-Income Families

3.1. Students whose household income falls within the lowest 20% of national income levels (according to data from the Statistics Committee or authorized body) are classified as coming from low-income families.

3.2. Additional criteria may include:

- belonging to a socially vulnerable category (large families, orphans, persons with disabilities, etc.);
- receiving state-targeted social assistance;
- residence in rural or remote areas.

3.3. The status is determined based on official documents confirming the family’s income and/or the student’s personal status.

4. Admission and Enrollment Support Mechanisms

4.1. The University sets annual target indicators for the admission of students from low-income families, striving to increase their share each year.

4.2. Admission support includes:

- quotas for grant and tuition-based programs;
- special social grants and scholarships;
- counseling and informational assistance for applicants from low-income backgrounds;
- participation in state and private educational support programs (e.g., deferred educational loans).

4.3. The Admissions Committee, together with the Department of Academic Policy and Social Support, is responsible for implementing these admission-related measures.

5. Support Measures During Study (Retention and Graduation Goals)

5.1. To ensure successful learning and graduation, the University provides a comprehensive system of support measures, including:

Financial support:

- facilitation of access to social grants and scholarships through government, international, and charitable programs;
- tuition fee discounts;
- monthly stipends and financial aid;
- priority access to dormitory housing and discounted meals.

Academic support:

- academic mentoring programs;
- additional consultations and remedial courses;
- flexible scheduling for resolving academic backlogs.

Psychological and social support:

- counseling services by university psychologists and social educators;
- participation in student clubs and adaptation programs for socially vulnerable groups.

5.2. The University conducts ongoing monitoring of academic performance and graduation rates among students in this category.

5.3. The University aims to maintain a minimum graduation rate of 90% among students from low-income families.

6. Support for International Students from Low- and Lower-Middle-Income Countries

6.1. This Policy also applies to international students from countries classified as low- or lower-middle-income by international organizations (UN, World Bank, etc.).

6.2. For such students, the University provides:

- tuition grants and fee discounts;
- subsidized housing and meals;
- academic, advisory, and legal support;
- adaptation and language courses.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

7.1. Implementation of this Policy is monitored annually.

7.2. Key performance indicators include:

- the proportion of students from low-income families among admitted students;
- the proportion of such students successfully completing studies;
- the total amount of financial support provided;
- student satisfaction survey results.

7.3. Monitoring results are reviewed by the Academic Council of the University and used to adjust the Policy as needed.

8. Responsibilities and Implementation

8.1. The following units are responsible for implementation of this Policy:

- Department of Academic Affairs;
- Department of Social and Educational Work;
- Department of International Cooperation;
- Department of Economics and Finance.

8.2. Coordination of implementation is entrusted to the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs.

9. Final Provisions

9.1. This Policy enters into force upon approval by the Chair of the Board – Rector of the University.

9.2. All structural divisions must adhere to this Policy when planning and implementing activities related to supporting students from low-income families.

9.3. The Policy is subject to revision at least once every three years, taking into account changes in legislation and the socio-economic context of the country.

10. Alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals

10.1. This Policy contributes to the implementation of the following UN Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 1 – No Poverty, Goal 4 – Quality Education, and Goal 10 – Reduced Inequalities.

10.2. The University prepares an annual report on its contribution to these goals, including statistics on admission, study, and graduation of students from low-income families.

10.3. The report is published on the official website of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and made publicly available.

11. Partnerships and Cooperation

11.1. The University implements student support programs for low-income families in cooperation with:

- the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- international foundations (Bolashak, Erasmus+, DAAD, KOICA, USAID, etc.);
- corporate partners and charitable organizations.

11.2. The University promotes the attraction of external grants and scholarships and informs students about opportunities to participate in national and international support programs.

11.3. Through the Department of International Cooperation and the Department of Social and Educational Work, the University coordinates student participation in academic mobility programs, internships, and grant competitions aimed at improving access to education.

11.4. The University provides administrative and advisory assistance in the preparation of documents for external grants and social benefits.