Preparation of postgraduate students at the Kazakh National Agrarian University

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The President of Kazakhstan Nazarbaev N.A. emphasized the preparation and training of specialists capable of successfully competing in the external and internal markets in his Message “On Strategy of Occurrence of Kazakhstan in Top 50 of the Most Competitive Countries of the World” (Nazarbaev, 2006). Current economic conditions do not demand only the possession of good professional scientific knowledge and skills, but also high level of professional culture capable of independently formulating and solving modern innovative problems.

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The university offers 39 masters’ programs and 16 PhD programs. In the academic year of 2011-2012 the number of students, who have completed masters and PhD programs, was 124, 107 of which were masters students. 98 of these masters’ students attended the program by the special inquiry of the government while the remaining 9 completed the program on contract basis.

The Kazakh National Agrarian University possesses all necessary resources for the preparation of specialists and highly qualified academic staff is one of such resources. 35 of this academic staff are academicians of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 106 are doctors of science, 282 are candidates of science, 10 have PhD, and 110 have master’s degrees. Moreover, linguistic educational center “Time to Study” is established at the university where students and academic staff have the opportunity to learn a foreign language.

PhD students may conduct their research at the Kazakhstani-Japanese Innovative Center, Scientific Research Institute of Anemology Problems, Scientific Research Institute of Agro-Innovations and Ecology, Wood Scientific-Innovative Institute, Consulting Institute of Agro-business, and at many other research centers and institutes.

The governmental program ‘On Educational Development of Kazakhstan for 2011-2020’ regards the achievement of a high degree of quality in higher education as its primary objective so that there are sufficient number of highly qualified and skilled specialists in order to meet the demand of labor market. The main tool leading to the achievement of the said primary objective of this program is academic mobility that is proven by world practice. It is known that academic mobility promotes the enhancement of the quality of graduate and postgraduate training, increases the scientific research efficiency in addition to having positive impact on other educational aspects. Moreover, academic mobility has a significant role in personal development and employability that is achieved by its promotion of cultural awareness and respect for other cultures. Furthermore, it encourages linguistic pluralism and contributes to the competitiveness of higher educational institutions.

The international academic mobility of teachers, postgraduate students, and researchers is carried out on the basis of cooperation agreements signed with foreign high schools and educational institutions and takes the form of trainings.
At the Kazakh National Agrarian University the academic mobility of MSc and PhD students is realized through international exchange programs such as Tempus, Erasmus Mundus, Erasmus Mundus Partnership, DAAD, LOGO, and other programs.

The essential contribution to development of academic mobility of high school is realized by the international grant of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan “Bolashak”, which gives an opportunity to Kazakhstani young people to get education at one of the best universities of the world.

Up to date over 50 Memorandums of Cooperation have been signed by the university with foreign high school-partners with the aim of achieving and maintaining academic mobility. As the result of these memorandums, more than 90 MS students and 30 PhD students attended the scientific training at the following agrarian universities: Plovdiv (Bulgaria), Wageningen University (Netherlands), University of Northern Dakota (USA), St. Istvan University (Hungary), University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno (Czech Republic), National university of Bio-resources and Wildlife Management (Ukraine), and at Moscow Agricultural Academy named after K.A. Timiryazev (Russia) from 2010 till 2012.

In the academic year of 2010-2011 the university organized International Master’s Summer School for the first time on ‘Veterinary Science in a Bio-Safety Problem.’ Summer school was also organized in the academic year of 2011-2012, but on 4 directions: Water Resource Management; Soil Science and Agro-Chemistry; Wood Resources and Forestry, and on Veterinary Science.

Representatives of industrial research and production held training for master’s students that was organized directly at the following production sights:
- Big Almaty Channel named after D. Kunaev;
- Science Research Institute of Agriculture and Plant growing;
- RSE “KazLesProekt”, and
- Central Laboratory of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the Problem of Epidemiology and Épizootiology.

Undergraduates were given a unique opportunity to obtain scientific advice of leading scientists of Kazakhstan and Europe on all aspects of master's dissertation thesis.

References


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