

**JSC «KAZAKH ABLAI KHAN UNIVERSITY OF INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS AND WORLD LANGUAGES»**

“Approved by”  
Acting Vice Rector for Academic Affairs  
Candidate of Political Sciences, Professor



**PROGRAM**  
**entrance exams to doctoral studies**  
**in the field of training**  
**8D064 – «International Relations»**  
**in the educational program**  
**8D03121 – «International Relations»**

**Almaty, 2026**

## 1. General provisions

1.1 The program was compiled in accordance with the Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan of October 31, 2018 No. 600 «On approval of the Model Regulations for admission to studies in educational organization, implementing educational programs of technical and vocational education» (hereinafter referred to as the Standard rules) and the Rules for admission to study at JSC «Kazakh Ablai Khan University of International Relations and World Languages» (hereinafter referred to as Ablai Khan KazUIR&WL).

1.2 The entrance exam shall consist of the following blocks:

- 1) an interview with an incoming person conducted by the examination committee of Ablai Khan KazUIR&WL;
- 2) essay writing;
- 3) answers to examination questions on the profile of the educational program group.

1.3 The final score is a collection of scores obtained by summing up the results of the essay assessment, answering examination questions on the profile of the educational program group and interviewing.

Type of test	Scores
An interview with an incoming person conducted by the examination committee of the OHPE	30
Essay writing	20
Answers to examination questions on the profile of the educational program group	50
Total	100

3 hours 20 minutes (210 minutes) are allotted for the doctoral entrance exam, of which:

- for an interview - 20 minutes;
- to write essays and answers to exam questions on the profile of the educational program group - 190 minutes (3 hours 10 minutes).

1.4 Entrance exams for groups of educational programs under doctoral programme are held within the following terms:

- 1) from August 4 to August 20 of a calendar year;
- 2) from November 19 to December 11 of a calendar year.

1.5 The interview for individuals entering doctoral studies is carried out by Ablai Khan KazUIR&WL independently before passing the entrance exams in the blocks

«Writing essays» and «Answers to examination questions on the profile of the group of educational programs».

The interview is aimed at assessing the professional and personal qualities of the incoming, the potential for conducting research or experimental research work.

The interview is formalized by a protocol, which is signed by the chairman, members and secretary of the examination committee.

If the applicant fails to appear for the interview, 0 scores are set, a protocol is drawn up, which is signed by the chairman, members and secretary of the examination commission.

### **Topics for preparing for the exam according to the profile of the educational program group**

1. Evolution of classical paradigms of international relations theories
2. The ideas of G. Morgenthau, K. Waltz, D. Mearsheimer and their applicability to the modern polycentric world.
3. The Liberal idealist tradition and neoliberal institutionalism
4. The role of international institutions in overcoming the anarchism of the international system.
5. Critical theories in international relations: Marxism, I. Wallerstein's theory of world-system analysis, and others
6. Methodology of quantitative and qualitative analysis in international relations
7. The use of composite indexes in international index research
8. The evolution of State sovereignty
9. The problem of "failed states",
10. The New Bipolarity: The Specifics of the US-Chinese Rivalry (the "Thucydides Trap")
11. Economic diplomacy and methods of its assessment
12. Strategies of States to protect national economic interests
13. Methodology for measuring the effectiveness of economic diplomacy.
14. Digital diplomacy and the geopolitics of artificial intelligence (AI)
15. The impact of new technologies on diplomatic practice, information warfare, the concept of "digital sovereignty" and the phenomenon of "globoticism".
16. U.S. strategy in a changing world
17. Evolution of foreign policy doctrines (from unipolarity to selective engagement),
18. Foreign policy of the People's Republic of China
19. The European Union as a unique international actor
20. Problems of the Unified Foreign and Security Policy
21. The Middle East node of contradictions in world politics
22. Integration and disintegration processes in the post-Soviet space
23. The experience and prospects of the EAEU
24. The multi-vector foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan

25. Artificial intelligence as a tool for the development of interstate cooperation
26. Initiatives of the Republic of Kazakhstan within the framework of the UN, CICA, OIC, OSCE and the **Organization of Turkic States (OTS)**
27. Kazakhstan's contribution to global nuclear non-proliferation and peacekeeping.
28. Transport and logistics geopolitics of Eurasia
29. The development of the Middle Corridor (**Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (TITR).**), the integration of the EAEU and the Belt and Road initiative, the role of Kazakhstan as a continental bridge.
30. Kazakhstan's national security in the context of cross-border challenges

### **Approximate essay topics**

1. The role of the middle Powers in the transformation of the modern world order.
2. The geopolitical consequences of the technological rivalry between the United States and China
3. Security issues and the crisis of the concept of the regional security complex
4. International aspects of the energy transition and the formation of a new energy diplomacy.
5. Artificial intelligence as a factor in the transformation of international security.
6. The evolution of multipolarity in the 21st century: challenges and prospects.
7. The impact of sanctions policy on the system of international relations.
8. Transformation of global governance in the context of the crisis of international institutions.
9. Arctic exploration in the context of the geopolitical interests of the world powers.
10. Regional conflicts as a factor in changing the architecture of international security.
11. The concept of the "global South" and the changing balance of power in international politics.
12. The importance of transport and logistics corridors in the modern geo-economy of Kazakhstan
13. The role of "soft power" in the foreign policy of modern states.
14. Digital diplomacy as a new tool for international cooperation.
15. The United States and China in the 21st century: confrontation, competition or coexistence?
16. The impact of the climate agenda on global politics and international cooperation.
17. Central Asia in the new geopolitical conditions of the 21st century: opportunities and risks. Conflicts of the future: predictive scenarios
18. Transformation of foreign economic strategies of states in the context of global instability.
19. International political consequences of competition for technological leadership.
20. The role of the middle powers in shaping the new world order.

## Literature

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