

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

«Approved by»  
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2025



**PROGRAM**

**entrance exams to doctoral studies  
in the field of training**

**8D064 – «International Relations»  
in the educational program**

**8D03121 – «International Relations»**

**Almaty, 2025**

## 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. Classical and modern theories of international relations: realism, liberalism, constructivism, Marxism, postmodernism.
2. Models of the international system: unipolarity, bipolarity, multipolarity.
3. Globalization and its impact on international relations.
4. Methodology of scientific research in international relations.
5. The evolution of the system of international relations in the XX–XXI centuries.
6. The role of great Powers in international politics.
7. International organizations and global governance (UN, WTO, IMF, etc.).
8. Influence of transnational actors: corporations, NGOs, mass media.
9. Problems of the modern world order and global governance reform.
10. Geopolitics and strategic competition in the modern world.
11. Military alliances and collective security systems (NATO, CSTO, etc.).
12. Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and arms control.
13. Regional security issues (Middle East, Eastern Europe, Asia-Pacific region).
14. The evolution of diplomacy: traditional and digital diplomacy.
15. The foreign policy of the leading actors: the USA, China, Russia, the EU.
16. European integration and the EU's Foreign Policy.
17. Africa and Latin America in the system of international relations.
18. The Asia-Pacific region: conflicts, partnerships, prospects.
19. The post-Soviet space: foreign policy, conflicts, integration processes.
20. International economic relations and trade wars.
21. Energy security and the struggle for resources.
22. Development and international assistance: the role of international institutions.
23. Global migration processes and demographic challenges.
24. Islamic radicalism: spread and risks
25. Sustainable Development Goals and international cooperation.

### **Approximate essay topics**

1. Evolution of theoretical paradigms in international relations: from classical realism to post-structuralism.
2. Comparative analysis of realistic and liberal approaches to international security.
3. The return of multipolarity: a challenge or an alternative to the liberal world order?
4. The concept of the "global South" and the changing balance of power in international politics.
5. Central Asia in the new geopolitical conditions of the 21st century: opportunities and risks. Conflicts of the future: predictive scenarios
6. The most important priorities of cooperation between Kazakhstan and the United States.
7. Arctic exploration in the context of the geopolitical interests of the world powers.
8. Features of Kazakhstan's foreign policy in an unstable world
9. The role of the middle Powers in shaping the new world order.
10. The United States and China in the 21st century: confrontation, competition or coexistence?
11. The future of the international liberal order: crisis or adaptation?
12. Cyberspace as a new dimension of international security.
13. International conflicts and interference: where is the boundary between protection and violation of sovereignty?
14. The evolution of terrorism in global politics: from Al-Qaeda to ISIS and beyond.
15. How have the functions of international organizations changed in the era of global challenges?
16. WTO in the context of economic nationalism and protectionism: the end of the global trade order?
17. Effectiveness of sanctions policy in international relations.
18. Energy security: the geopolitics of resources in the era of decarbonization.
19. Climate change and international relations: threat or incentive for cooperation?
20. Digital diplomacy and soft power in the context of information wars.

### **Literature**

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