

**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
8D065 – «Regional Studies»
in the educational program
8D02321 – «Regional Studies»

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. The subject, structure and methods of regional studies: an interdisciplinary approach.
2. The history of the formation and development of regional studies as a scientific discipline.
3. Typology of regions: geographical, ethnocultural, political and economic foundations.
4. Methodology of comparative regional studies.
5. Concepts of regionalization and regionalism in world science.
6. Regional geopolitics: classical and modern schools.
7. The civilizational approach in the study of regions (Huntington, Toynbee, Spengler, etc.).
8. The role of space and territory in the formation of regional identities.
9. The region as a subject and object of international relations.
10. The interaction of globalization and localization: glocalization as a phenomenon.
11. Regionalization and integration processes in the modern world.
12. Models of regional development: center–periphery, uneven development.
13. Cross-border cooperation and interregional cooperation.
14. Global challenges and regional responses (security, migration, climate, pandemics).
15. Megaregions as a new form of organization of space.
16. Regional policy and governance in global and national perspectives.
17. Economic zoning and spatial economics.
18. Ethnopolitics and ethno-confessional factors in regional development.
19. Urbanization, agglomerations and urban regions in world politics.
20. The role of natural resources in shaping the strategic importance of regions.
21. Cultural specifics and identity of regions.
22. Language, religion and traditions as factors of regional self-determination.
23. Migration processes and cultural transformations of regions.

24. Europe: political integration and regional differences.
25. The Middle East: conflicts, religion and the struggle for influence.

Approximate essay topics

1. Region as a scientific category: from space to a political and cultural system.
2. Interdisciplinarity of regional studies: synthesis of approaches and methodological strategies.
3. Regionalization and globalization: competing or complementary processes?
4. Evolution of scientific approaches to the typology of regions.
5. Civilizational and geopolitical approaches in regional studies: a comparative analysis.
6. The formation of megaregions in the 21st century: driving forces and consequences.
7. The European Union as a model of regional integration: lessons and prospects.
8. Regional integration associations: political and economic logic and models (NAFTA, MERCOSUR, ASEAN, etc.).
9. Cross-border regions as new forms of regional cooperation.
10. The role of regions in global governance: between sub-global initiatives and international institutions.
11. The construction of regional identity in the context of globalization.
12. Language, religion and historical memory as factors of regional self-determination.
13. Cultural region: theory, practice, borders.
14. Identity conflict in multicultural regions.
15. Branding of the region as a tool of soft power and cultural diplomacy.
16. The role of the national state in shaping regional policy.
17. Political and economic asymmetry of regions: causes and mechanisms of smoothing differences.
18. Regional elites and local interests in foreign policy.
19. Ethnopolitical conflicts as a threat to regional stability.
20. Regional energy security: the struggle for resources and sustainable development.

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