



NAZARBAYEV
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



**Master of Arts
in Eurasian Studies**

About the Program

- The first multi-disciplinary Area Studies program in Kazakhstan and the wider region focusing on Eurasia
- 2-year **funded all-English MA** program of 120 ECTS credits.
- Taught by **internationally recognized faculty**
- Advised and actively supported by the partnership with the **University of Wisconsin-Madison (USA)**
- An **exciting opportunity** to explore the cultures, languages, histories, communities, societies, and politics of Eurasia
- Includes the five post-Soviet Central Asian states, Russia, Eastern Europe, Mongolia, Xinjiang, and neighboring regions of South Asia, China and the Middle East
- An **unrivalled concentration** of scholars with Eurasian expertise, spanning the disciplines of Anthropology, Economics, History, Literature, Oriental Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, and Sociology
- **Advanced academic training** for pursuing careers in research, government, international organizations, academia, or other fields
- Study in Astana, at the heart of Eurasia, with **unparalleled access** to archives, fieldwork sites, government agencies, international organizations, and foreign diplomats
- **Housing** on campus with modern facilities, labs, library and sports center and a **monthly stipend** (only for Kazakhstani citizens).
- Awards **"Master of Arts in Eurasian Studies"** degree

What will you gain?

Eurasian Studies graduates will gain the following academic, research and analytical skills:

- To prepare program graduates with a solid foundation in research methods and skills across a range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences that will enable them to conduct independent research at graduate level
- To ensure that program graduates understand and can explain the major issues in the history, society, and culture of the Eurasian region.
- To train program graduates to apply their methodological training and research findings independently across a wide range of scholarly and practical settings.
- An excellent level of academic English and the ability to read, write and speak at least one of the languages of the Eurasian region.

How will you gain these skills?

Eurasian Studies students will gain these skills through:

- Training in research methods and scholarly enquiry
- Individual and group presentations
- Fieldwork projects.
- Writing Theoretical and methodological papers in different disciplinary areas
- Writing Research papers on specific topics in Eurasian studies
- Proposing and developing an individual research project for a Graduate Thesis.

Sample of courses offered

Politics of Eurasia

The Politics of Eurasia course introduces the students to the comparative analysis of political institutions, ideas and practices in the former Soviet countries of Eurasia. We will assess the political legacies of the Soviet system, address the challenges of political reforms, and analyze the origins, functioning and impact of formal and informal political institutions. We will learn how to construct a comparative framework and build arguments for explaining the different political processes and outcomes post-Soviet countries have experienced.

Post-Socialist Capitalism and Development

The main objective of this course is to examine ideological underpinnings and social implications of post-socialist economic transformations in the Post-Soviet Space, East-Central Europe and China. We will approach complex economic issues such as development policies, investment strategies, economic boom and bust cycles from an anthropological perspective by analyzing the norms and values that drive both institutional policies and people's market behavior. More specific topics will include: liberalization/globalization, neo-liberal reforms, foreign investment, state-capital interaction, formal/informal sectors of economy, urban development, construction boom, capital accumulation and dispossession.

Social Problems and Issues in Eurasia

This course will examine sociological theories of regional social problems. The first half of the course is devoted to understanding theories of global inequality in their many dimensions and how they are applied. In the second half of the course we will investigate different issues, such as Population growth, Migration, Environmental problems, and Education in Eurasia.

Buddhism in Central Asia

This course will explore the diffusion and evolution of Buddhism within Central Asia and along the Silk Road. We will study the relationship between Buddhism and politics within the Kushan and Sogdian empires as well as the kingdoms of Kucha and Khotan. Additionally, the relationship between Buddhism and commerce as well as the evolution of Buddhist art and iconography will be explored. Particular attention will be paid to the Sarvastivada, Dharmaguptaka, and Mulasarvastivada sects of Buddhism.

Contemporary Russian and Russophone Literature

This course is dedicated to the advanced study of contemporary Russian and Russophone literature written after 1991 (after the dissolution of the Soviet Union). We will explore works written in various genres of prose and poetry (traditional novel, dystopias, conceptualist poetry, postmodernist fiction, popular and detective literature, women's prose, creative nonfiction) and other modes of cultural production (music, political and performance art) and debate the place and role of literature in the modern world. Students will learn how to find their way in the literary process as it unrolls in front of their eyes, learn to navigate creative outlets and the literary marketplace, engage with contemporary criticism and learn about literary competitions, their politics and their winners. We will read a wide range of practicing Russian and Russophone writers and poets who, while coming from diverse ethnic backgrounds of the former Soviet space, chose to write in Russian and to inscribe their work into Russian literary tradition. Our authors will include Victor Pelevin, Vladimir Sorokin, Tatyana Tolstaya, Ludmila Ulitskaya, Svetlana Alexievich, Zakhar Prilepin, Sergei Gandlevsky, Eugene Vodolazkin, Alexei Ivanov, Olga Slavnikova, Dmitry Prigov, Olga Sedakova, Miriam Petrosyan, Guzel Yakhina, and others.

Utopia in Russian and Soviet Literature

Examining contemporary novels and poems alongside modern-day historical scholarship, this course traces the history of utopia in Russian and Soviet literature between the revolution of 1905 and the collapse of the USSR in 1991. It examines how Russian and Soviet writers constructed visions of ideal societies and thereby seeks to understand the changing roots, nature, and limits of revolutionary dreams in Tsarist Russia and the USSR. We will further reflect on the role that literature played in questioning narratives of progress, exploring dystopian science-fiction visions of the future along with satirical portrayals of the Soviet present and idealised accounts of the pre-industrial past.

The Russian Empire in Asia and its neighbours, 1552 – 1919

This course is a detailed study of the international relations and diplomacy of the Russian empire in Asia from the early modern period to the October Revolution and Civil War. We will reflect on Russia's place in Asia, and the various competing



ideologies that have been used to justify it, from Christianity and the conventional European civilizing mission to mystical ideas of Russia's spiritual affinity with 'The East'. Beginning with the campaigns to conquer Kazan, Astrakhan and Siberia that first turned Muscovy into a multi-confessional empire, the course will cover Russian expansion in Asia up until the revolutionary crisis of 1916 – 1919. The aim is to understand the possibilities and limits of Russia claim to 'Great Power' status in Asia, and the political, ideological and cultural effects on both metropole and colony of this series of conquests and annexations.

Admission

International and Kazakhstani graduates of a recognised undergraduate program with a **minimum CGPA of 2.75 of 4.0** or above are welcome to apply. Applicants must have achieved a **minimum IELTS score of not less than 7.0, with no sub-score lower than 6.0**, or the equivalent TOEFL score as posted on the ETS website; (or evidence of native competence), for admission. *Applicants with IELTS 6.5 or equivalent TOEFL may be admitted conditionally.

Applicants must submit:

- application form available online at <http://admissions.nu.edu.kz>
- CV/resume
- personal essay
- three confidential letters of recommendation
- notarized copy of Bachelor's or other degree diplomas with transcript(s)
- notarized copy of passport or identity card
- valid GRE test report (if available, not required)
- language proficiency test reports (IELTS or TOEFL) valid as of the date of application (for non-native English speakers)

Shortlisted applicants will be invited for an interview with the Admissions Committee, which will consist of members of the faculty and an external member from a leading international university. The Admissions Committee will evaluate applications on the basis of the information submitted in English. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered by the Admissions Committee. The Admissions Committee reserves the right to request a completed application package in hard copy. Submission of a completed application package by the applicant does not guarantee admissions to the Eurasian Studies program.



Faculty Profiles:

Sofia An

PhD in Sociology, University of Toronto, 2014.
Child Welfare, social policy and welfare institutions in post-Soviet Eurasia.

Daniel Beben

PhD in History and Eurasian Studies, Indiana University, 2015.
History of Badakhshan; Ismailism, Sufi Islam, 18th & 19th century Islamic Central Asia.

Alima Bissenova

PhD in Sociocultural Anthropology, Cornell University, 2012
Economic Anthropology; Development; Urban Anthropology; Anthropology of Islam.

Reed Coil

PhD in Anthropology, University of Minnesota, 2016
Paleolithic archaeology, taphonomy, zooarchaeology, carnivore-hominin interactions.

Paula Dupuy

PhD in Anthropology, Washington University in St Louis, 2014
Prehistoric Central Asia/Eurasia, Anthropology of pastoralism, Archaeology of mountain-steppe environments.

Andrey Filchenko

Ph.D. in Linguistics, Rice University, 2006.
Comparative Linguistics; Siberian languages and culture, Khanty Grammar

Philippe Forêt

Ph.D. in Geography, University of Chicago, 1992.
Environmental History of Central Asia. History of the Qing Empire

Meiramgul Kussainova

Candidate of Science in History,
Abay Almaty State University, 2009
History of Kazakhs Elites under Russian Rule in the 19th Century; Use of Oral Epic Poetry in the Study of 18th- and 19th-Century Kazakh History.

Rozaliya Garipova

PhD in Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University, 2013
Islamic History of Russia, Religious Authority, Islamic Law, Women and Gender in Islam

Gabriel McGuire

PhD in Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University, 2013
Central Asian Literature and Culture; Village Ethnography.

Daniel Scarborough

PhD in History, Georgetown University, 2012.
History of the Russian Orthodox Church and its clergy.

Caress Schenk

PhD in Political Science, Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, 2010
National Identity and Multiethnic States; Political Economy of Migration; Political Corruption. Post-Soviet region.

Charles Sullivan

PhD in Political Science, George Washington University, 2014
Russian politics; Russian political culture.

Hélène Thibault

Ph.D. in Political Science and Government, University of Ottawa, 2014; Politics of Religion in Central Asia; Political Violence in Central Asia

Victoria Thorstensson

PhD in Slavic Languages and Literature,
University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2013
Russian and Soviet intellectual and cultural history.

Alexei Trochev

PhD in Political Science, University of Toronto, 2005
Comparative Politics; Law and Society; Judicial Politics;
International Law; Human Rights.

Nikolai Tsyrempilov

Candidate of Science in History, Oriental Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St Petersburg, 2001; Doctor of Science in History, Buryat State University, 2015 Inner Asian Buddhism; History of Tibet, Mongolia and Eastern Siberia.

Spencer Willardson

PhD in Political Science, University of Iowa, 2013
Security Issues and Foreign Policy decision making in post-Soviet Eurasia.

Mahire Yakup

PhD in Linguistics, University of Kansas, 2013.
Uighur language, linguistics and culture.

Apply online at
<http://admissions.nu.edu.kz>



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