

# NU GSPP DIGEST



## GRADUATION 2022

On June 10, 2022, NU GSPP hosted the School's annual graduation ceremony. **100 students** – including 37 students under the Master in Public Policy (MPP) program, 57 students under the Master in Public Administration (MPA) program, and 6 students under the PhD in Public Policy program – graduated from NU GSPP. It is the largest graduating cohort in the ten-year history of NU GSPP.

This year the School was honored to host **Mr. Maulen Ashimbayev, the Chairperson of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan**. Welcoming the graduates, the Senate Speaker noted that NU GSPP students have completed their programs during a very responsible and important period for the country: “The latest constitutional reforms set a ground for New Kazakhstan, where social justice will be the main value. This Kazakhstan will be built by the young generation.”

Read more at [NU GSPP News](#).



## SINGAPORE COMPONENT

After a 3-year hiatus due to the Covid pandemic, NU GSPP resumed the Singapore component for students of the Master in Public Administration and Master in Public Policy programs.

The School's Strategic Partner, the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP) of the National University of Singapore, hosted 79 graduates in June and 54 students in July for the two-week-long Singapore Component Program.

It is noteworthy that this year we are celebrating the **10th anniversary of the NU GSPP strategic partnership with the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP)**. The Long-term Agreement and Partnership Establishment between NU GSPP and LKYSPP was signed **on August 2, 2012**.

Read more at [NU GSPP News](#).

## NU GSPP PAST EVENTS

### NU GSPP CONFERENCE:

#### **“PUBLIC POLICY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE IN A CHANGING WORLD”**

On June 7, 2022, NU GSPP hosted the sixth annual international conference on “Public Policy and Good Governance in a Changing World”.

The NU GSPP Committee led by Vice Dean for Research, Prof. Riccardo Pelizzo, organized the Conference in partnership with National University of Singapore’s Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Astana Civil Service Hub, and Sustainable Development Solutions Network Kazakhstan. Researchers, academics, experts, civil service practitioners, and students from Azerbaijan, Australia, India, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Singapore, and the US participated in the event that was in hybrid format: online and offline.

Read more at [NU GSPP News](#).



### **THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE SDSN KAZAKHSTAN**

The official launch of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network in Kazakhstan was held on June 8, 2022.

SDSN Kazakhstan was approved as a National Network hosted by Nazarbayev University under the umbrella of the global SDSN in January 2022.

[Watch the video from the event.](#)

### **THE GUEST LECTURE BY IVAILO IZVORSKI, THE WORLD BANK’S PRACTICE MANAGER**

On May 19, Mr. Izvorski discussed the options for upgrading Kazakhstan’s economy in the lecture titled “Kazakhstan: dependence – distance – dispersal”.

During the discussion, the speaker stressed the main challenges of Kazakhstan and the three priorities on productivity, mobility, and connectivity.

[Watch video from the event.](#)



# NU GSPP STUDENTS LIFE

## STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

*This year we have three MPP students who will go on a Student Exchange Program in Singapore.*

**Meruyert Adylgazina, Moldir Atenova, and Laura Maitanova** will start their learning journey at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore next semester.

Read more at [NU GSPP News](#).



## POLICY CHALLENGE 2022

On May 14, 2022, we hosted a Policy Challenge 2022 contest among students and graduates of the NU GSPP, the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, KAZGUU and the Bolashak Association.

The event was initiated by the NU GSPP Alumni Chapter and was organized with the support of NU GSPP, Department of Public Administration of the Executive Office of the President of Kazakhstan, Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Astana Civil Service Hub and NU Alumni Association. It is also worth noting the valuable contribution of representatives of the Presidential Youth Personnel Reserve, who participated as mentors for the teams.

Read more at [NU GSPP News](#).



## NU GSPP PUBLIC POLICY INTERNSHIPS

On June 24, 2022, the first batch of the NU GSPP Internship program participants presented their final projects summarizing the results of their internship.

This program took place between May 23 and June 24, 2022. Eleven students underwent internships in eight government, quasi-government and international organizations. Students shared their experiences, lessons learned and thoughts about how this program had influenced their future professional plans.

Read more at [NU GSPP News](#).

## NU STEP TO PH.D



### **ZHANIBEK ARYNOV, POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR AT NU GSPP (NU GSPP ASSISTANT PROFESSOR SINCE AUGUST 2022)**

Zhanibek obtained a Ph.D. degree in International Relations from the University of St. Andrews, in the UK. His research interests include Central Asian geopolitics, Kazakhstan's foreign policy, EU-Central Asia relations, and international identity, image, and perception studies. Zhanibek joined the Graduate School of Public Policy in July 2019.

Read full interview at [NU Step to Ph.D rubric.](#)

### **ZHANAR ASHIKBAYEVA, PH.D. IN PUBLIC POLICY GRADUATE**

31-year-old Zhanar Ashikbayeva graduated from the NU GSPP. In her doctoral dissertation, she explores the problem of self-selection and management efficiency. In her opinion, morality in the public sector affects what kind of people come to work there.

Read full interview at [NU Step to Ph.D rubric.](#)



### **ALIYA ASSUBAYEVA, PH.D. IN PUBLIC POLICY GRADUATE**



Aliya's thesis contributes to understanding how water security is perceived in Central Asia and whether river basin management can strengthen water security in Kazakhstan. As part of the doctoral program, she completed research internships at Oulu University (Finland) and IHE Delft Institute for Water Education (Netherlands) in 2021.

Aliya is an active member of the Science Council, which is the executive and decision-making body for research activities at NU. She also supports student initiatives such as the Research Peer Advising and moderates a platform for discussions about water in Central Asia called [Water Café](#).

Read full interview at [NU Step to Ph.D rubric.](#)

## NU GSPP IN MEDIA



### NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY EXPERTS DISCUSS EVOLUTION OF POLITICAL NARRATIVES IN AFTERMATH OF JANUARY EVENTS

The Nazarbayev University Graduate School of Public Policy (NU GSPP) hosted a panel discussion on Political Instability in Central Asia on June 7 unpacking how the society and government discourse changed in the context of January events and exploring what the policy implications of those changes are. **Astana Times**.

### NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR COLIN KNOX: KAZAKHSTAN IS A COUNTRY WITH A SEMI-OPEN GOVERNMENT

Colin Knox, Professor & Vice Dean for academic affairs at Nazarbayev University's Graduate School of Public Policy, shared the results of a multi-year study on the interaction between Kazakhstan and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries. The article is in Russian. [Kazakh24.info](https://kazakh24.info)



### WHO ARE THE POLITICAL SCIENTISTS? - ИНФОSHARE

This interview with NU GSPP Graduate Madi Khanafiya who told about his experience as an NU student and staff member. Madi studied political sciences and public policy.

Author: Azamat Saghat. The video is in Kazakh. [ИнфоShare](https://info-share.kz)

### FROM PUBLIC POLICY TO BIOMEDICINE: WHO IS TRAINED BY KAZAKHSTAN'S LEADING UNIVERSITY

There are bright representatives of new-generation leaders among NU-2022 graduates. Graduate Mikhail Asafov studied cybersecurity problems in Kazakhstan. Togzhan Syrymova created a tactile glove to collect data for breast cancer diagnostics. Gulnaz Kordanova is running Connect Ed, an NGO that provides children with computers and teaches digital literacy. The article is in Russian. [Tengrinews.kz](https://tengrinews.kz)

