

# I chose al-Farabi University...

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The reason I chose Al-Farabi Kazakh National University to do my undergraduate degree was based on lots of premises, not only because of research facilities, friendly teaching environment, but also an extensive collaboration networks with a lot of leading universities and research institutions around the world.

KazNU is considered as one of the leading universities in Kazakhstan, which is reflected in the quality of its forefront research and innovations. I think, rigorous academic training, alongside with skills and knowledge received in the KazNU is sufficient to be employed anywhere. All this is reflected in the University's ranking and reputation. The University itself is located in the vibrant city of Almaty, with a lot of attractions, cultural life, a unique mixture of training and leisure time, which ultimately enriches students' life.

During my education there the university started to adapt flexible course programs, where students could chose any courses to bolster their academic career by equipping themselves with necessary knowledge and skills, which, I think, is a great move towards students needs. Starting from my

third year of education, I realized that I want to continue my scientific path by choosing Molecular Biology as my focus of interest. Eventually I decided to study the role of singular nucleotide polymorphisms of detoxification genes in the development of esophageal cancer. Therefore I chose the department of Genetics and Molecular biology. I found, that the staff was really supportive and encouraging to perform independent thinking and research. Especially I want to thank my supervisors, Prof. Leyla B. Djansugurova and Zaure G. Aytasheva. I think it is great, that the department tries to attract people with different scientific background and experience to teach students, whether in fundamental or translational science, which, I hope, would help in maintaining a very good research and teaching environment.