

MAQSUT NARIKBAYEV UNIVERSITY

CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

September 2024 – December 2025
2024–2025 academic year · 2025 calendar year

Astana, 2026

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MNU MAQSUT NARIKBAYEV UNIVERSITY

SUMMARY

This report brings together what Maqsut Narikbayev University (MNU) did for the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from September 2024 to December 2025, covering the 2024–2025 academic year and the 2025 calendar year. We wrote it for our partners, students, applicants and anyone interested in the life of the University.

For us, this period was above all about research and about how its results reach the state and the city. The University worked with ten government bodies, released 8 open analytical reports and held 9 open MIND Talks lectures in public spaces in Astana. One of our studies led to visiting sessions of the Senate and the Mazhilis at the University.

In 2025, MNU faculty published 57 papers indexed in Web of Science and Scopus, 43 of them related to the SDGs. The University graduated 1,014 students, 65.1% of them women. Of the 2025 graduates of the Higher School of Law, 88.6% found jobs in the year they graduated. The Endowment Fund provided almost KZT 63 million in student support. Our students won the national rounds of Jessup and the "Zańǵar Zańger" competition, and took every prize in the Kazakh-language group of Asia Zangeri 2025. In the Applied Diplomacy and Cross Cultural Communication courses, students heard 34 lectures by ambassadors.

At the end of 2025, the University agreed with the Economic Research Institute to take part in Kazakhstan's Second Voluntary National Review of the SDGs. Continuing this work will be one of our main priorities in 2026.

1,014
graduates in 2025

65.1%
women among graduates

57
publications in WoS and Scopus

₸63 mln
student support from the Endowment Fund



1. MNU IN NUMBERS

Maqsut Narikbayev University · September 2024 – December 2025

1,014
graduates in 2025

65.1%
women among graduates

57
publications in WoS and Scopus

₸63 mln
student support from the Endowment Fund

775
staff, including 604 academic staff

34
ambassador lectures for students

10
government bodies as research partners

2
chambers of Parliament held visiting sessions at MNU

KEY INDICATORS

Figures in this report and the SDGs they relate to · September 2024 – December 2025

Indicator	Value	SDG
University students (FTE, 2025)	**7,471**	4
2025 graduates (820 bachelor's, 194 master's)	**1,014**	4
Share of women among 2025 graduates (660 of 1,014)	**65.1%**	5
Law programme graduates (271 bachelor's, 76 master's)	**347**	16
International graduates (from 7 countries)	**35**	4, 17
University staff, including 604 academic staff	**775**	8
Staff on contracts longer than 24 months (56.9%)	**441**	8
MNU faculty publications in Web of Science and Scopus (2025, deduplicated)	**57**	4, 9
of which related to one or more SDGs	**43**	17
University analytical reports in open access	**8**	16, 17
Open MIND Talks lectures in public city spaces (+7 open lectures and research seminars)	**9**	4
University memoranda with government bodies, NGOs and business	**6**	17
Government bodies the University worked with	**10+**	16, 17

Indicator	Value	SDG
Civil servants from 10 central government bodies trained at the University	**25**	4, 16
Healthcare workers surveyed in the healthcare cybersecurity study	**14,000+**	3
Lectures by foreign and EU ambassadors for students (autumn 2024 and autumn 2025)	**34**	4, 16, 17
Students who attended Big4 Month lectures (November 2025)	**550+**	8
Chambers of Parliament that held visiting sessions at MNU	**2**	16
Financial aid to students from the KAZGUU Endowment Fund (Sept 2024 – Dec 2025), KZT	**62,985,961**	1, 4, 10
Students in the M. Narikbayev Scholarship programme	**89**	1, 4
Applications for individual tuition fees reviewed during the period	**430**	1, 10
Graduates of the PDP Basic professional development programme (Jan–Apr 2025)	**85**	4
Attendances at in-house lecturer workshops (November 2025)	**411**	4
Aid to staff from the Employee Financial Support Fund (2024), KZT mln incl. taxes	**79.4**	1, 3, 8
Share of women among full-time staff (January 2025)	**61%**	5
Staff who would recommend MNU as an employer (satisfaction survey)	**96%**	8

2. RESEARCH FOR THE SDGs

In 2025, MNU faculty published 57 papers in Web of Science and Scopus, 43 of them on SDG-related topics.

Year	Web of Science	Scopus	Total (deduplicated)
2025	44	55	57

KEY RESEARCH THEMES

Area	SDG	Examples of 2025 publications
Justice and strong institutions	16	Transparency of asset recovery and trust in the state (Problems and Perspectives in Management); behavioural biometrics in EU law (Journal of Digital Technologies and Law); AI in armed conflict (Journal of Strategic Security)
Health and well-being	3	Hospital payment by clinical cost groups (Journal of Public Health Research); character strengths and stress among finance professionals (Frontiers in Psychology)
Economy and innovation	8, 9	Commercialisation of research projects (Journal of Open Innovation); allocation of research grants (PLOS ONE); globalisation and deindustrialisation (Economies)
Quality and inclusive education	4, 10	Research training of teachers (Journal of Education for Teaching); university–industry partnerships (International Journal of Educational Research); a Braille trainer for blind children (AI and Society)
Decent work and inequality	1, 8, 10	Minimum wage in the EAEU (State and Law); perceptions of migrant groups (International Journal of Intercultural Relations); multidimensional poverty in Indonesia (Etikonomi)
Urban heritage	11	Museums commemorating victims of political repression (Kritika Kultura)
Regional cooperation	17	Cross-border cooperation in Central Asia (SpringerBriefs in Political Science); sanctions diplomacy of small states (Global Geopolitical Dynamics in Eurasia)

ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR A WIDE AUDIENCE

Beyond journal articles, the University released 8 open analytical reports: on the minimum wage in the EAEU, the Hague Conventions, cassation in administrative cases, EU–Kazakhstan cooperation, AI trends, the readability of laws, open data, and the EAEU–Iran free trade agreement. CEGREG together with

The Hague Research Institute published four pieces on Central Asia: on “Trump 2.0”, strategic trade controls, the region’s position on Northern Cyprus, and water relations. The Higher School of Law published the proceedings of the MNU Annual Legal Conference 2025 marking the 85th anniversary of Maqsut Narikbayev, the “Commentary on the AIFC Court Rules” edited by B.A. Tukulov and R.M. Khodykin, and a practical guide to tax disputes.

Faculty of the International School of Economics often speak in the media. This year their comments appeared on Voice of America, The Times of Central Asia, Egemen Qazaqstan, 24.kz, Atameken Business and Silk Way TV. One interview was about the opening of the UN regional SDG centre in Almaty.

RESEARCH IN NUMBERS

57
faculty publications in Web of Science and Scopus, 2025

43
of them on SDG-related topics

8
open analytical reports by the University

4
pieces by CEGREG and The Hague Research Institute on Central Asia

7 areas

Justice and strong institutions · health and well-being · economy and innovation · quality and inclusive education · decent work and inequality · urban heritage · regional cooperation

6 media outlets

Faculty comments appeared on Voice of America, The Times of Central Asia, Egemen Qazaqstan, 24.kz, Atameken Business and Silk Way TV

3. CONTRIBUTION TO THE SDGs



SDG	Key results of the period
1, 2, 3	Research on the minimum wage, food security and healthcare cybersecurity; KZT 62.99 mln in student aid from the Endowment Fund; Student Psychological Support Service (since September 2025)
4	1,014 graduates; MIND Talks, Kapuscinski Lecture, 34 ambassador lectures, student conferences, competition wins
5	Women: 65.1% of 2025 graduates; MIND Talks on the gender pay gap, a case championship against gender-based violence, a memorandum with KIPD
8	775 staff, 56.9% on contracts over 24 months; internships for students of three higher schools, 88.6% employment of Higher School of Law graduates, Big4 Month, journalism internships at TengriNews and Euronews Academy
9, 10, 11	Legal Tech Lab, AI Legal Graph, the SenceAble conference, urban safety research; Student House
12–15	Eco-cases and a hackathon, climate lectures, “Taza Qazaqstan” and Themis Square (11,400 m²), birdhouses on campus
16	347 law graduates; “Law” and “International Law” programmes ranked first in the Atameken ranking; visiting sessions of the Senate and Mazhilis, Hague Conventions, legal training for judges
17	Contribution to the Second VNR, dialogue with the UN, international academic partnerships

SDG 1

No Poverty

End poverty in all its forms everywhere.



In November 2025, a report by Dr N.L. Lyutov (Doctor of Law) on the minimum wage and subsistence minimum in EAEU countries was published, and on 19 November the author presented it at a University research seminar. It compares Kazakhstan's practice with ILO Convention No. 131 on minimum wage fixing.

E. Mynbayeva of the International School of Economics co-authored a paper on multidimensional poverty in Indonesia (Etikonomi, 2025). On 19 June she also gave Astana residents an open MIND Talks lecture on the basics of financial literacy.

Most financial support for students comes from the KAZGUU Endowment corporate fund, which is supported by alumni, companies and partner foundations. From September 2024 to December 2025, the fund provided KZT 62,985,961 to students: KZT 37,218,256 in the 2024–2025 academic year and KZT 25,767,705 in the first semester of 2025–2026. In the first semester, 56% of this money went to 54 students from socially vulnerable groups. The fund paid their tuition, accommodation in the Student House and stipends. The fund has been operating since 30 March 2016, and over this time more than 300 students have received financial aid from it. The fund's charter and programmes are published at mnu.kz/ru/endowment.

Alumni contributed 42% of the fund's money. The Azamat Tokzhanov Grant of KZT 10 million covered tuition for five students, and a 2002 graduate paid for dormitory accommodation for a student from a socially vulnerable family. Another 33% came from companies: ERG, NCOC, Karachaganak Petroleum Operating, Hilton Astana, Alageum Electric JSC and Kazakhstan Temir Zholy JSC. Good Project LLP funded a full four-year scholarship for one student. The remaining 25% came from foundations and institutional partners. Under an agreement with the Qazaqstan Halqyna Public Foundation, 10 students from vulnerable groups received tuition grants and stipends worth KZT 10 million.

Sometimes help is needed urgently. The MNU Marathon charity run every year raises money for students facing serious hardship, including cancer. In 2025 the run was held under the name Run for Yersultan and raised KZT 4 million.

Tuition can also be reduced without a grant. During the reporting period, the Department of Student Financial Support received and reviewed 430 applications for individual tuition fees. Another 89 students study under the M. Narikbayev Scholarship programme.

There are also named scholarships. In 2025, the Assemgul Issina Scholarship, founded by alumni, was awarded to a second-year International Relations student. A year earlier, in November 2024, ERG Komek awarded an ERG Talents scholarship to a fourth-year student who had spent a year interning at ERG's head office.

Advisors support students from low-income families all the way to graduation, and the Legal Clinic gives citizens free legal advice.

IN NUMBERS

₸63 mln
student support from the Endowment Fund, Sept 2024 – Dec 2025

54
students from vulnerable groups received fund support

430
applications for individual tuition fees reviewed

₸4 mln
raised by the Run for Yersultan

Sources: MNU Endowment Fund; Lecture by N.L. Lyutov

SDG 2

Zero Hunger

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.



SDG 2 meeting at MNU, 25 December 2024

Food security at the University was the focus of the SDG 2 working group, chaired by K.D. Zakaria, Adviser to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Science and Innovation. At a meeting on 4 September 2024, more than 15 experts and ministry representatives discussed an analytical note on the development of the country's agro-industrial complex.

On 25 December 2024, MNU hosted another SDG 2 meeting. It presented legislative proposals to transform NANOC into an international agri-tech centre and a roadmap for establishing the international Genebank of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS).

IOFS GENEBANK

A roadmap for the Genebank was signed with the Ministry of Agriculture. A USD 2 million grant has been allocated to preserving genetic resources.

The University gives targeted support to students who cannot afford food: in 2024 it paid for meals for a student in a difficult situation. Every year during Ramadan, the University holds iftars for students living in the Student House.

Campus canteens offer affordable healthy and vegetarian menus at student prices.

IN NUMBERS

15+
experts discussed agro-industry development on 4 September 2024

$2 mln
grant for preserving genetic resources (IOFS Genebank)

2
meetings of the SDG 2 working group

Sources: SDG 2 working group, 04.09.2024 SDG 2 meeting, 25.12.2024

SDG 3

Good Health and Well-being

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.



Gym for MNU staff

The largest study of the year in this area was a survey on cybersecurity in healthcare, conducted by Zh. Temirbekov with the support of the Ministry of Health. Based on the results, the authors recommend mandatory staff training and incident response protocols, as well as a dedicated law on cybersecurity in the sector.

14,000+ RESPONDENTS

More than 14,000 healthcare workers took part in the survey. 63% of them support adopting a law on cybersecurity in healthcare.

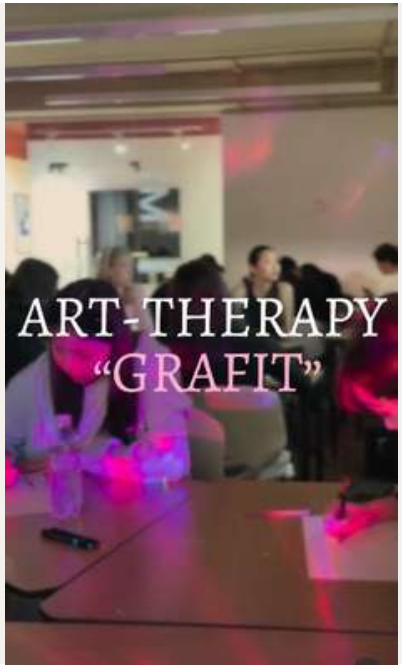
Another study looks at fatal road accidents in Kazakhstan. On 21 October 2025 its results were discussed with the Administrative Police Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and on 5 November at a round table with the Ministry of Justice, the Prosecutor General's Office and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

In September 2025, the University invited students and schoolchildren to a meeting on preventing young people's involvement in drugs. Opening remarks were given by MNU Chairman of the Board T.M. Narikbayev and First Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan B.T. Alenov.

D. Kaskirbayeva and co-authors studied hospital payment by clinical cost groups (Journal of Public Health Research, 2025). T. Kutebayev and R. Lloyd examined stress and mental well-being among finance professionals (Frontiers in Psychology, 2025). At the iHEA congress, E. Mynbayeva showed how machine learning helps predict length of hospital stay using Kazakhstan's hospital statistics.

The University runs a Student Psychological Support Service. It works in five areas: assessment, correction, individual counselling, prevention and awareness. Students come with adjustment difficulties, anxiety and burnout. For at-risk students, the service set up dedicated support together with advisors, the Student House and parents. From September 2024 to December 2025, psychologists held 44 trainings and 708 consultations.

The campus has a medical centre offering first aid, prevention and reproductive health consultations. The campus and the Student House are tobacco- and vape-free.

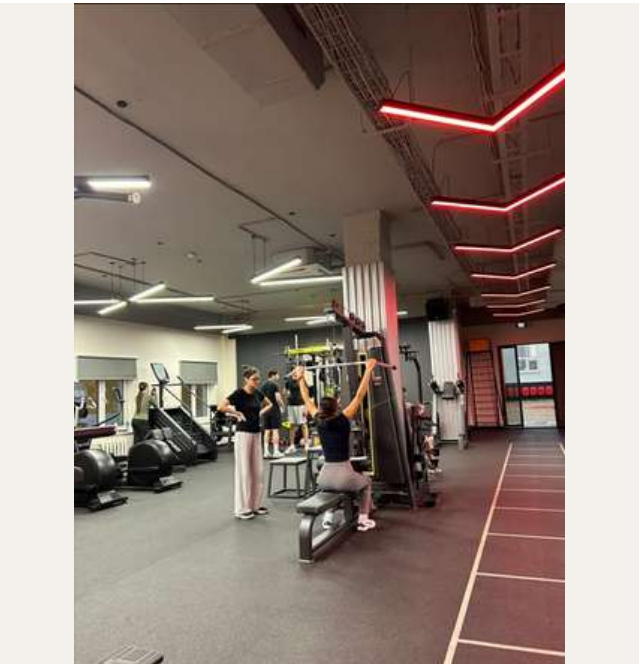


Art therapy by the Grafit club, 25 September 2025

In November 2025, the service held its first Stress Relief Week, attended by more than 200 students. Students take up the theme themselves. One example: on 25 September 2025, the student creative organisation Grafit held an art therapy session for fellow students, led by one of the club's members.

The University also helps staff with medical costs: in 2024, the Employee Financial Support Fund approved 7 of 12 applications to pay for medical services. More about the fund in the SDG 8 section.

Students have a fitness centre with a gym on campus, and the Falcons MNU sports hall hosts training sessions and games, including table tennis. The fitness centre runs safety briefings, personal training and sports competitions. Staff have a separate gym, which was renovated in spring 2025 with more space and new equipment.



MNU student fitness centre and sports hall

The University holds a sports games series for staff. The 2025 season was dedicated to the 85th anniversary of Maqsut Narikbayev and included competitions in the campus sports hall and a chess tournament. Staff benefits also include a gym, a relaxation area and a nap room.

The University also cares for staff families. Every year it holds New Year parties and a Children's Day celebration for their children. On 30 May 2025, children of all ages enjoyed contests and games, and every participant received a gift.



MNU staff sports games dedicated to the 85th anniversary of Maqsut Narikbayev



Children's Day celebration for staff children, 30 May 2025

On 5 November 2025, the MIND centre held a round table on improving administrative legislation on road safety.



Round table on road safety, 5 November 2025

In 2025, the University graduated 77 psychologists: 61 bachelor's and 16 master's.

IN NUMBERS

14,000+
healthcare workers answered the cybersecurity survey

708
psychological service consultations

44
trainings for students

200+
students at the first Stress Relief Week

Sources: Cybersecurity study Road accident round table

SDG 4

Quality Education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.



Ambassador lecture in the Applied Diplomacy course, 2024–2025

OPEN LECTURES FOR ASTANA RESIDENTS

In February 2025, the University held open lectures by MNU faculty at the ORTA Community public space. Topics ranged from video surveillance and corruption schemes to the philosophy of al-Farabi, China's national identity and personal finance. Announcements of some lectures reached 37,000 to 58,000 views on Instagram.

In February, the Distinguished Lectures public series was launched. In autumn, Yannick Kuehl of the National Geographic Society and Lisa Goldberg of Stanford gave lectures for students at the University. The International School of Economics continued its Dean's lecture series, and the Center for Economic Research its seminars and webinars.

In April, the University became the first in Central Asia to host the Kapuscinski Lecture, a global series supported by UNDP and the European Commission. Cambridge professor Abhimanyu Sharma spoke about language policy and inclusion.

On 5 December 2025, MNU Bridge Hub was held for schoolteachers, covering data protection, cyberbullying and AI in the classroom.

The University library operates in open access.



Kapuscinski Lecture, Professor A. Sharma, April 2025



Open MIND Talks lecture at ORTA Community, 2025

APPLIED DIPLOMACY

The International School of Economics has run the Applied Diplomacy course since spring 2022. Lectures are given by serving ambassadors and representatives of international organisations; by March 2025 there had been 52 such lectures. During the reporting period, students met:

- in autumn 2024 (16 lectures) — the ambassadors of the Netherlands, Kyrgyzstan, Italy, Spain, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Venezuela, Slovakia, Uzbekistan, Hungary, Estonia, the USA, Germany, the Republic of Korea, France and the EU;

- in autumn 2025 (18 lectures, together with the Cross Cultural Communication course) — the ambassadors of Serbia, Finland, Thailand, Switzerland, Italy, Poland, the Holy See, Portugal, Spain, Estonia, Germany, Austria, Brazil, Uzbekistan, Canada, Algeria, the EU, and France's Ambassador for Human Rights Isabelle Rome.

On 13 November 2025, the UN Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan gave a lecture on the SDGs and the UN80 initiative.

STUDENT RESEARCH

With the support of the French Embassy and Paris 8 University, the CEGREG centre held a series of student research seminars in February–April 2025, each attended by more than 40 people. On 18–19 April a cartography seminar was held with the French Institute of Geopolitics. On 15 May the first student conference on international relations took place: more than 45 students from MNU, Astana IT University and Nazarbayev University gave 25 presentations.

The 3rd ISE Student Research Conference, dedicated to the 85th anniversary of Maqsut Narikbayev, brought together students from AITU and Almaty Management University and NIS schoolchildren from Karaganda, Kokshetau and Petropavlovsk. In December 2024 the Law School held its annual poster exhibition, MNU Law School Showcase, with more than 100 bachelor's and master's students registered. In April 2025, Model UN 2025 took place, and participants were addressed by S. O'Malley, Acting UN Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan. In spring, the MNU IRx student debate club opened.

STUDENT WINS

Competition	MNU result	Date
National rounds of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition	1st place, Best Memorial and Best Oralist awards; MNU represents Kazakhstan at the international rounds in Washington for the 23rd time	Feb 2025
Asia Zangeri 2025 administrative justice moot court competition	All three prize places in the Kazakh-language group; KZT 3.4 mln of the KZT 4 mln prize fund	May 2025
International Olympiad on Financial Security (600+ participants from 40 countries)	2nd place	Oct 2025
National "Zańǵar Zańger" competition (Language Policy Committee, Ministry of Science and Higher Education)	1st place	Oct 2025
City case championship "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence"	2nd place	Nov 2024
UNDP regional case championship	2nd place	Dec 2025

CLASS OF 2025

In 2025, MNU graduated 1,014 students: 820 bachelor's and 194 master's. Almost a third of them (303 people, 29.9%) studied on grants. 522 graduates completed English-medium programmes, 372 Russian-medium and 120 Kazakh-medium. 251 graduates obtained a qualification entitling them to teach at primary school level.

Sources: MIND Talks launch Kapuscinski Lecture



MNU team, winner of the "Zańǵar Zańger" competition, October 2025



Training for MNU faculty and staff



MNU team, winner of the Jessup national rounds, 2025

Higher school	Bachelor's	Master's	Total
Higher School of Law	215	58	273
Higher School of Humanities (incl. journalism)	298	40	338
International School of Economics (excl. int'l law)	251	22	273
Business School	—	56	56
"International Law" programme	56	18	74
Total	820	194	1,014

Graduates include 35 international students from 7 countries, most of them from Uzbekistan (29 people).

EMPLOYERS AND STUDY PROGRAMMES

At the annual meetings of the Business Councils of the Higher Schools, employers from the public sector, large companies and IT discuss programme updates. During the reporting period, an introductory AI course was added to bachelor's programmes, along with AI modules in applied disciplines and master's programmes. For those not studying at the University, there was the online programme "HR and Law" and three-month Kazakh language courses.

In November 2025, fourth-year students of all higher schools took a free course on developing AI competencies for their profession.

"HR and Law" is an annual professional development programme in labour law and HR management. Classes run on Zoom, and assignments are posted in Canvas LMS. The programme has run every year since 2023.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Since 2019, all students have taken the compulsory Creativity, Service, Intellectual development (CSI) programme. Its results count towards the integrated GPA. Points are awarded in three areas: community service, intellectual development and creativity.

Every year, more than 1,800 first-year students complete compulsory academic integrity training.

Sources: CEGREG conference Jessup



"HR and Law" certificate ceremony

Each higher school has a committee on academic quality and ethics, and written work is checked with StrikePlagiarism.com, integrated with Canvas LMS. MNU initiated the Academic Integrity League of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The University supports reading through book clubs run by the higher schools, the library and student organisations.

FACULTY KEEP LEARNING TOO

In November 2024, Provost S. Pen and guest expert Henk Frencken held a seminar for faculty of all schools on active learning in large groups. November 2025 brought Methodology Week with a lecture on AI tools in teaching, ISE workshops on teaching methods, and master classes by the Law School on interactive learning. Researchers attended sessions on the basics of research, publishing monographs in the International Encyclopedia of Laws, using AI in dissertation writing, and DocTalks meetings on research careers.

The largest programme for faculty is PDP (Professional Development Program) Basic. From 21 January to 19 April 2025, participants took in-person courses in Active Learning, Assessment, Content Design and the Psychology of Teaching. More than 80 people completed the programme.



PDP Basic graduates, April 2025

In November 2025, faculty taught their colleagues themselves. In-house lecturers from three schools ran 9 workshops with 411 attendances in total. At the Higher School of Humanities, sessions covered reading as a skill (Zh. Amangeldinov, 39 participants), classroom management (A. Tonkikh, 63) and AI tools for interactive learning (I. Akhmetova and Z. Serbayeva, 46). At the International School of Economics, B. Turlubayeva, B. Rakhmetov and Ye. Mynbayeva ran three workshops on teaching skills and methods. At the Higher School of Law, O. Vozniak, A. Abylaiuly and E. Babajanyan led master classes on interactive learning (56, 33 and 36 participants).

On 12 June 2025, at Motivation Day, Kamal Nasir, Teaching Professor at the International School of Economics, gave the lecture "Critical Thinking: Dialogue & Debates" on developing critical thinking in study and in life and recognising thinking errors. On 13 November 2025, business trainer and executive coach Kaisar Makan held a master session for faculty, "Secrets of Successful Teaching: How to Inspire, Engage and Achieve Results". Participants tried out student engagement tools and analysed real situations from their own practice.

In 2025, 1,974 students enrolled in bachelor's programmes. 71 of them (3.6%), including 46 women, are first-generation students, the first in their family to go to university. Under the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, open lectures, the library and continuing education courses are available to everyone without discrimination.

IN NUMBERS

34
ambassador lectures: 16 in autumn 2024 and 18 in autumn 2025

80+
faculty completed PDP Basic

411
attendances at in-house workshops

1,800+
first-year students learn academic integrity every year

Sources: Competency development programme



SDG 5

Gender Equality

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.



ISE students at the "Ring the Bell for Gender Equality" ceremony, AIX, March 2025

Two thirds of the 2025 graduates are women: 660 of 1,014 (65.1%). They make up 67.7% of bachelor's and 54.1% of master's graduates.

Women are the majority in all fields: 16 of 26 graduates in IT and data analysis, 71 of 77 in psychology, and 573 of 911 in law, economics, humanities and social sciences.

Level	Total graduates	Of whom women	Share of women
Bachelor's	820	555	67.7%
Master's	194	105	54.1%
Total	1,014	660	65.1%

As of January 2025, women made up 61% of all full-time staff and 60% of the teaching staff. Among the 459 senior academic staff, 268 are women, or 58.4%.

In autumn 2024, the University hosted a city case championship for Astana universities as part of the "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" campaign. The jury included representatives of the National Commission for Women's Affairs and Family and Demographic Policy, the Astana Police Department, UNDP and the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator. The MNU team took second place.

In March 2025, ISE students took part in the Ring the Bell for Gender Equality ceremony at the AIX exchange. In her lecture on 20 November, Lisa Goldberg encouraged young women to choose STEM with confidence.

Sources: MIND Talks "Gender Economics" · Case championship · Memorandum with KIPD

SDG 5 Gender Equality

In October, France's Ambassador for Human Rights Isabelle Rome gave a lecture, "Feminism in Diplomacy".

On 3 December 2025, MNU signed a memorandum with the Kazakhstan Institute for Public Development; one of its areas is joint research on gender equality and family policy. Professor M. Khassenov spoke at a side event of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly. There was student work on the topic too: a paper on feminine job titles at Research Talks, an ISE research seminar in December, and Tourism students presented a study at an international conference in Tashkent.

Since 2024, the University has had a mother and baby room where a staff member, student or guest can feed and change a baby in peace. Mothers and fathers on parental leave keep their jobs and are offered flexible hours.

In 2025, 2,256 people started studying at the University, 1,452 of them women (64.4%): 1,272 of 1,974 in bachelor's, 172 of 266 in master's and 8 of 16 in doctoral programmes. Among graduates that year, 65.1% were women: 555 of 820 in bachelor's and 105 of 194 in master's. The share of women among graduates is no lower than among entrants, meaning women complete their degrees as often as men. The Women's Mentoring Club, the mother and baby room and the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy help keep it that way.



Mother and baby room at MNU

The University runs a Women's Mentoring Club. Experienced female staff mentor students and colleagues, helping them set goals, shape personal and professional paths and develop leadership skills. Each mentor–mentee pair works as a partnership through dialogue and regular feedback, and the club holds trainings, seminars and workshops with guest experts and networking meetings for all members.

In October 2025, the club announced a new mentee selection, and on 9 December 2025 it opened a new season. The opening was hosted by the club's chair, MNU Professor Emeritus Lepuda Karimovna, and its administrator, the Director of the Strategy and HR Department. Senior Lecturer Aigerim Kussainkyzy gave an open lecture, "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment". In 2025, more than 100 young women signed up for the project.

The club operates under the approved Regulations on the Women's Mentoring Club. They, like the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, are available at mnu.kz/ru/staff.



Meeting of the MNU Women's Mentoring Club



Lisa Goldberg's lecture "Bridging Science and Storytelling", 20 November 2025

IN NUMBERS

65.1%
of 2025 graduates are women

58.4%
of senior academic staff are women

100+
young women joined the Women's Mentoring Club

Sources: MNU HR documents

SDG 6

Clean Water and Sanitation

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.



Winning team of the “Sponge It Up” competition, Hochschule Hof, March 2025

Zh. Bekshora published a paper on water relations between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in the joint CEGREG and The Hague Research Institute series (July 2025). Water diplomacy was also discussed at a round table with the UN Youth Council in September 2025.

BBA in Management student Aisulu Yerbol, who studied on a double degree programme at Hochschule Hof, was part of the winning team of the Sponge It Up competition. Participants proposed how a campus can manage rainwater more efficiently using the “sponge city” approach.

Buildings have free drinking water stations, and restrooms are fitted with water-saving fixtures.

IN NUMBERS

2025
study of Kazakhstan–Kyrgyzstan water relations

1st place
for a team including an MNU student in Sponge It Up

SDG 7 AND 13

Affordable and Clean Energy; Climate Action

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.



Symposium at the Enactus World Cup 2024, 2 October 2024

In October 2024, MNU hosted participants of the Enactus World Cup from 33 countries. The championship included a research symposium on how Kazakhstan can reach carbon neutrality by 2060.

In May 2025, Joshua Lincoln, Senior Research Fellow at the Center for International Law and Governance of the Fletcher School of Global Affairs (Tufts University) and Visiting Researcher at Kellogg College, University of Oxford, spoke about the challenges of the transition to net zero after the Paris Agreement and the state of negotiations on a global plastics treaty. In June, the University held a training for journalists, "Climate, Biodiversity and Artificial Intelligence", and in May 2025 University students organised an Eco-Hackathon.

The University signed a memorandum with the International Center for Green Technologies and Investment Projects.

Part of the campus lighting already runs on solar power: 30 solar-powered street lamps are installed on University grounds. During the day the panels charge batteries, and in the evening the lamps light the car park and paths without a grid connection.

All lighting in the buildings and the Student House has been switched to LED panels, common areas have occupancy sensors, and heating is controlled automatically according to the weather. The University shares Kazakhstan's national goal of carbon neutrality by 2060 and is reducing its carbon footprint by digitising paperwork and expanding solar lighting on campus.



Solar-powered street lamp on campus

IN NUMBERS

30
solar lamps on campus

33
countries at the Enactus World Cup at MNU

2060
carbon neutrality goal: the theme of the symposium

Sources: Enactus symposium · Training for journalists · Eco-Hackathon

SDG 8

Decent Work and Economic Growth

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.



Tengri News scholarship ceremony, 23 October 2025

INTERNSHIPS

Work placements are part of all bachelor's programmes.

For example, at the International School of Economics the most interns came from International Relations (113), Business Administration in Finance (97) and Business Administration in Management (88). At the Higher School of Law, students went on placements in four waves: 195 fourth-year students in January 2025, 154 third-year students in June, 68 third- and fourth-year students in July and another 20 fourth-year students in September. At the Higher School of Humanities, Tourism had the most interns:

Study programme	Students on placement
6B11102 Tourism	195
6B03101 Psychology	88
6B02301 Translation Studies	82
6B02302 Applied Linguistics	70
6B11101 Hospitality	43
6B02303 Kazakh-English Languages and Linguistics	6
Total	484

GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT

Each higher school has its own career centre that helps graduates find jobs. The University also runs an early employment programme: final-year students start working before they graduate.

IN NUMBERS

775
staff, including 604 academic staff

88.6%
of Law School graduates employed in their graduation year

96%
staff would recommend MNU

₸79.4 mln
in aid to staff from the Support Fund (2024)

The Career, Internship and Employment Centre of the Higher School of Law tracks where graduates work in the year they graduate. Over two years, 346 graduates were employed that year, and the 2025 result is noticeably higher than for the previous cohort.

Indicator	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Graduates, total	224	248
Employed within the graduation year	159	187
Continuing studies or temporarily not working (master's, parental leave, military service, etc.)	26	37
Employment rate excluding those continuing studies or temporarily not working	80.3%	88.6%

Employers took part in four of the School's career events 102 times: 20 partners came to Legal Month 2024, 25 to the Job Fair on 3 April 2025, 40 to the Business Council meeting in May and 17 to Legal Month 2025.

CAREER PROGRAMMES

In November 2025, the Career Centre of the International School of Economics held Big4 Month together with EY, KPMG, PwC and Deloitte. Students went through every stage of a real recruitment process. Ten guest lectures drew more than 550 people. 35 students had mock interviews with 11 recruiters, and 28 of 32 participants passed the EY Audit entry test.

In June 2025, the School signed a memorandum with Qazaqstan Investment Corporation on internships and employment. At the end of the year, representatives of the Development Bank of Kazakhstan, EY DATAS, Tengizchevroil and other companies met students through the "A Step to Graduate" programme and guest lectures. Tourism students secured an internship agreement with Visit Shymkent. Three Supply Chain Management students received internship offers at the CILT Central Asia logistics forum.

JOURNALISTS AND THE MEDIA INDUSTRY

The International School of Journalism arranges internships directly with newsrooms. In October 2024, under a memorandum with Alash Media Group, TengriNews selected three third-year students through interviews and gave them scholarships and internships. Two more second-year students were invited to the Tengrinews Life, Travel and Sport special projects and the English-language newsroom. In autumn 2025 the programme continued: on 23 October three more students of the School received Tengri News scholarships. The scholarship includes mentoring, newsroom experience and the chance to stay on after the internship. In September 2024, the School and Auto Report offered an internship in automotive journalism.

In January 2025, MNU, Euronews Astana and the Media Development Foundation signed a memorandum making the University the home of Euronews Academy in Kazakhstan. The first training took place on 31 March. It was led by Euronews Astana bureau chief Bojan Brkić, and participants learned to work on camera, conduct interviews, go live and produce TV reports. At the MNU Job Fair on 3 April, journalism students showed their CVs and portfolios to media companies and received feedback. In November 2025, the School updated its MNU Newsroom training newsroom, where students write analytical and long-form pieces under professional editors and build portfolios of publications.



Euronews Academy training at MNU, 31 March 2025

THE UNIVERSITY AS AN EMPLOYER

In 2025, MNU employed 775 staff, including 604 academic staff. 441 people (56.9%) have contracts longer than 24 months or permanent contracts.

The MNU Employee Financial Support Fund helps staff who find themselves in difficulty. Applications are accepted twice a year, in spring and autumn, and decisions are made by the Financial Aid Allocation Commission. The fund pays for medical treatment of an employee, their spouse, children or parents, and helps with heavy loan burdens and mortgage down payments. A separate programme helps pay for higher education of employees' children in Kazakhstan.

In 2024, the fund reviewed 56 applications and approved 23: ten in full and thirteen in part. Staff received KZT 79.4 million including taxes. Most approved applications concerned loan burdens (13 of 35); the fund supported 7 of 12 applications for medical treatment and 3 of 9 for mortgage down payments.

HR rules are open. The HR Policy, the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, the Regulations on Continuous Professional Development and the regulations on recruiting faculty and administrative staff are published at mnu.kz/ru/staff. Individual labour disputes are handled by a conciliation commission; the order establishing it and the agreement on it are also posted on the website.

The University regularly surveys staff on job satisfaction. In the 2024 survey, 196 people took part, and 96% of them would recommend MNU as an employer. 92% are satisfied with communication with their manager, 90% with internal communications, and 83% each with teamwork, facilities and pay. Besides salary and a bonus system, staff are offered flexible hours, a relaxed dress code, training paid by the University, help with housing costs by agreement, team-building events, and gifts and parties for staff children.

Once a month, the University holds MNU Dialogue & Debates. The format was proposed by Chairman of the Board Talgat Maksutovich Narikbayev: staff from all departments come together, discuss problems openly and look for solutions together. Constructive criticism is not just allowed but encouraged. Meetings took place, for example, on 29 May and 19 June 2025.



MNU Dialogue & Debates, 2025

Staff even have their own vegetable garden. They set up beds on the seventh-floor roof and grow tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and radishes. In June 2025 they harvested the first radishes and immediately planted more. Anyone interested is welcome to join the gardening club.

There were no discrimination complaints at the University.



Staff vegetable garden on the seventh-floor roof, summer 2025

MNU has a well-designed onboarding process for new staff. The adaptation programme includes Welcome Day, an Induction Meeting, Welcome Training and mentoring (Buddy Program). Newcomers learn about the University's history and mission, its values and corporate culture, strategic priorities, internal processes and structure. Just as important is helping people quickly feel part of the University community, build working relationships and get support in their first months.

In 2024, more than 250 new staff completed the adaptation programme. In 2025, Welcome Day took place on 25 August. Induction Meetings are held almost every month as new people join, for example on 16 September and 8 October 2025. At these meetings the HR team presents MNU's corporate culture, values and key areas of work, and newcomers receive a welcome pack with University merchandise.

The HR Policy prohibits forced and child labour, and pay scales are checked for pay gaps, including the gender pay gap.

 Sources: MNU HR documents



Welcome Day on 25 August 2025, welcome pack and Induction Meeting on 16 September 2025



MNU corporate life and the Induction Meeting announcement, 8 October 2025

The whole staff journey at the University is set out in the Employee Journey Map: recruitment with clear qualification requirements, training and development through PDP, annual performance appraisal (faculty rating, KPIs for staff) and building a career track — horizontal, vertical or diagonal.

In October 2024, the Labour Law research school held a round table on regulating platform work and disputes related to automation and AI.

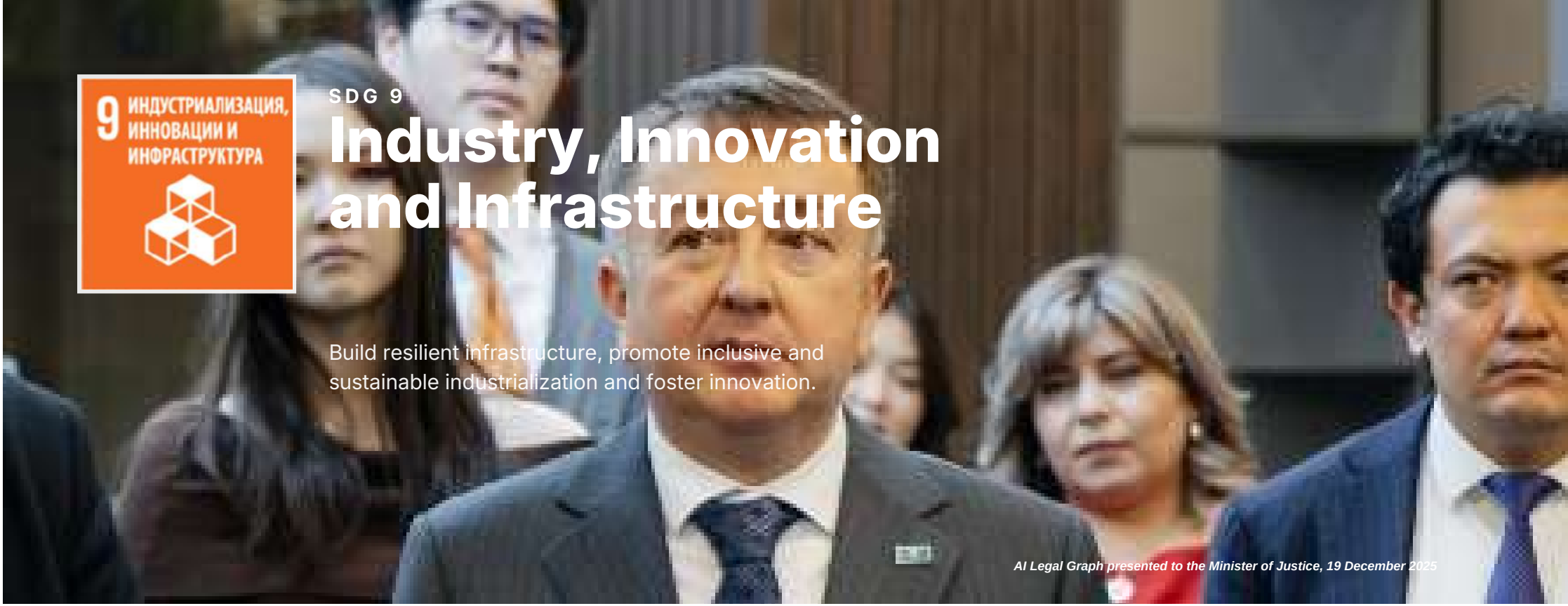
During the reporting period, 1,461 of 7,471 students (19.6%) completed internships longer than a month: 484 at the Higher School of Humanities, 437 at the Higher School of Law, 407 at the International School of Economics and 133 at the International School of Journalism.



Signing of the memorandum with Qazaqstan Investment Corporation, June 2025



MNU Employee Journey Map



SDG 9

Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

AI Legal Graph presented to the Minister of Justice, 19 December 2025

The main projects of the year here concern law and artificial intelligence. At the AIFC forum in November 2025, the Legal Tech Lab was announced. It brings together the AIFC Court, the IAC, MNU, AITU and China's CUPL to jointly develop an AI model for drafting legal documents. On 19 December, MNU and IT by Design presented AI Legal Graph to the Minister of Justice: a corpus of legal data structured as a graph for training models.

AI LEGAL GRAPH

Minister of Justice Ye. Sarsembayev called the project innovative and promised to support it.

In 2025, the University released reports on open data in Kazakhstan and global AI trends, and its experts took part in the World Government Summit in Dubai. In October, MNU and UNDP held the Digital Kyzylorda seminar on the region's digital development. Among publications, we note a paper by B. Yedgenov and co-authors on what helps commercialise research projects (Journal of Open Innovation) and a study of how research grants are allocated in Kazakhstan (PLOS ONE).

Courses in Entrepreneurship, Technopreneurship, Innovation management and Design thinking teach students an entrepreneurial mindset.

IN NUMBERS

5
Legal Tech Lab members: AIFC Court, IAC, MNU, AITU, CUPL

19.12.2025
AI Legal Graph presented to the Minister of Justice

4
courses on entrepreneurship and innovation

Sources: Legal Tech Lab · AI Legal Graph · Digital Kyzylorda

SDG 10

Reduced Inequalities

Reduce inequality within and among countries.



Open lecture by N. Lyutov on the minimum wage in EAEU countries, 19 November 2025





Support for large and low-income families

On 27 February 2025, MNU hosted SenceAble, an international conference on audio description, the spoken narration of video for blind and visually impaired viewers. It was organised with Gala Global Group in a hybrid format: experts analysed real projects and participants watched audio-described films. Six weeks later, Professor Sharma's Kapuscinski Lecture returned to the theme of inclusion, including the Deaf community and sign language.

MNU researchers tested an electronic Braille trainer for blind children (AI and Society, 2025) and studied how different migrant groups are perceived in Kazakhstan (International Journal of Intercultural Relations, 2025).

In 2024, the University bought a walker for a student so that she could move freely around campus and study on an equal footing with everyone else.

Building entrances have ramps, and there are lifts and accessible restrooms for people with disabilities. Equal access is set out in the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

We described Endowment Fund support, Qazaqstan Halqyna grants and individual tuition fees in the SDG 1 section. Almost a third of the 2025 cohort, 303 people, studied on state grants.

An Adviser to the Chairman of the Board oversees support for large and low-income families. Staff, students and alumni collected warm clothes, school backpacks and New Year gifts for them, and the families receive help with paperwork and medical treatment.

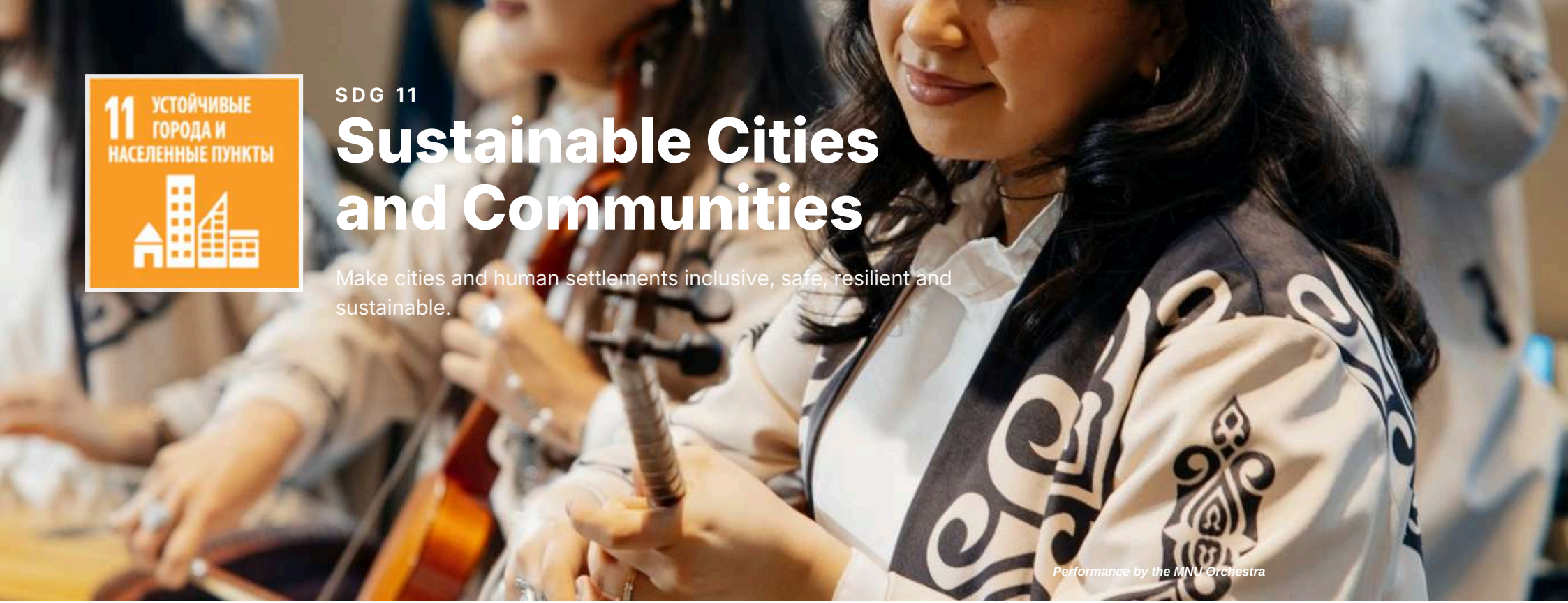
IN NUMBERS

303
2025 graduates studied on grants

35
international graduates from 7 countries

10
students from vulnerable groups: grants from the Qazaqstan Halqyna Foundation

Sources: Inclusive environment at MNU



SDG 11

Sustainable Cities and Communities

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Performance by the MNU Orchestra

University researchers study where crime concentrates in Astana and Almaty and where CCTV cameras are best placed. A lecture on this topic on 12 February 2025 launched the MIND Talks series. In December 2025, the University and the Astana City Maslikhat, together with akimat departments, agreed on joint research in education, culture, sport and social protection.

The University helps visiting specialists with housing costs.

Urban memory is represented by a paper by D. Melnikov, A. Mitrofanova and S. Ryazanova on museums commemorating victims of political repression in Kazakhstan (Kritika Kultura, 2025).

Students from other cities live in the 432-bed Student House and in the dormitory. In September 2025, 370 students moved into the Student House and 135 into the dormitory.

The main building has bicycle parking, Themis Square is open to students, and staff can work flexible hours.

The campus has its own cultural life: the University has a museum, the MNU Orchestra, the MNU Choir and the Úmit Theatre. In September 2025, the choir announced auditions for its vocal group and SMM team.



MNU students performing on the main stage

IN NUMBERS

432
beds in the Student House

370
students moved in, September 2025

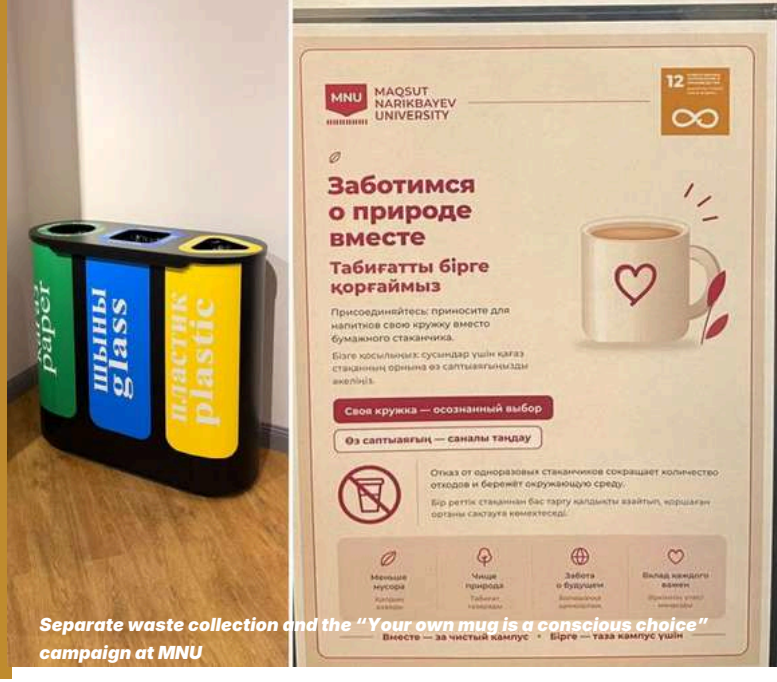
135
students live in the dormitory

Sources: University and Astana City Maslikhat

SDG 12

Responsible Consumption and Production

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.



Separate waste collection and the "Your own mug is a conscious choice" campaign at MNU

Twice, students looked for solutions for a "green" campus together with companies. In November 2024, the Coca-Cola İçecek Kazakhstan Case Impact championship focused on plastic waste, and team DMY won. In May 2025, at the Eco-Mind case championship with TrustMe, students proposed how to move the University's paperwork to electronic document management.

B. Yermukanova studies consumer behaviour; her research seminar in April 2025 discussed "consumer myopia". In November 2025, the EU Delegation and the Embassy of Portugal screened the documentary "A Sea of Trash" on marine pollution at MNU, followed by a student discussion.

The University takes part in the nationwide "Taza Qazaqstan" initiative. More than 2,000 students and staff joined greening and landscaping activities. The most visible result is the 11,400 m² Themis Square, opened in summer 2025. It was planted with 200 trees, more than 10,000 shrubs and about 2,500 other plants. In summer it is full of flowers, and students relax between classes on loungers, benches and in gazebos. ESG and sustainability topics among students are led by the Earth Ambassadors organisation.

Buildings have containers for separate collection of paper, plastic and mixed waste, and recyclables are sent for recycling. Procurement takes environmental standards into account.





Themis Square by MNU's main building, summer 2025

Next to the campus coffee machines hang posters from the "Caring for Nature Together" campaign. Students and staff are asked to bring their own mug instead of a paper cup: "Your own mug is a conscious choice". The campaign started in 2025 and runs under SDG 12.

IN NUMBERS

11,400 m²
area of Themis Square

2,000+
participants in "Taza Qazaqstan" activities

200
trees planted in the square



Public lecture by Dr Yannick Kuehl (National Geographic Society), 2 October 2025

SDG 14 AND 15

Life Below Water; Life on Land

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

In November 2025, students and lecturer K.U. Bekzhanova put up birdhouses for wintering birds around campus. They raised the money themselves and chose eco-friendly materials.

Under SDG 14, the University studies the legal protection of freshwater and transboundary aquatic ecosystems in Central Asia and the protection of the Yesil river basin from pollution.

In October 2025, MNU hosted a conference on improving legislation on responsible treatment of animals. That same month, Yannick Kuehl of the National Geographic Society gave a public lecture and discussed possible cooperation with the University. The marine theme was covered by the screening of “A Sea of Trash”. The student organisation Animal Law Society also works on the legal protection of animals.

The campus is cutting single-use plastic through the “Your own mug is a conscious choice” campaign.

IN NUMBERS

10,000+
shrubs planted on campus in 2025

2,500
other plants in Themis Square

2
animal protection events in October 2025

SDG 16

Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions.



Intensive Legal Training 2.0, November–December 2025

Law has always been the University's strength, so SDG 16 is an important area of work for MNU.

TRAINING LAWYERS

In 2025, 347 people graduated from the University's law programmes, a third of the whole cohort: 271 bachelor's and 76 master's. The Higher School of Law graduated 215 bachelor's and 58 master's students, and the International Law programme 56 bachelor's and 18 master's. Besides law and international law, master's programmes include IT law, competition law and intellectual property law. In the 2025 ranking of study programmes by the Atameken National Chamber of Entrepreneurs, MNU took first place for Law and International Law.

WORKING WITH PARLIAMENT AND GOVERNMENT BODIES

In 2025, both chambers of Parliament held visiting sessions at MNU, and in both cases the occasion was one University study. Its authors used computational linguistics to assess how clearly Kazakhstan's laws are written. On 20 February, the Senate Committee on Constitutional Legislation, chaired by Deputy Chairman of the Senate Zh. Assanov, came to the University, and on 22 April a working group of the Mazhilis Committee on Legislation and Judicial-Legal Reform.

Other University analytical reports covered open data, cassation in administrative offence cases and the recognition of foreign court judgments. The cassation report was discussed on 24 April at an expert round table with MPs, the Prosecutor General's Office and the Ministry of Justice. On 23 September, MNU together with the OSCE, the IRZ Foundation and the Judicial Administration held an international round table on Kazakhstan's accession to the 2005 and 2019 Hague Conventions. The University hosts the Central Asia office of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, and in October 2024 its Secretary General Christophe Bernasconi gave a lecture here.

Faculty prepared opinions for the Senate and the Public Chamber of the Mazhilis on the use of AI in law enforcement. In June 2025, a draft new law on the civil service was discussed at MNU.

Sources: Senate visiting session · Mazhilis working group · Hague Conventions

The University trained 25 civil servants from 10 central government bodies in the new civil service model and the principles of Good Governance.

From 24 November to 20 December 2025, Intensive Legal Training 2.0 for judges took place in Astana. It was held under the project “Enhancing the Efficiency of the Justice System in Kazakhstan”; MNU was one of the partners, and University lecturer O.S. Bektibayeva was among the trainers.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND LEGAL AWARENESS

In August 2025, MNU signed a memorandum with the Ministry of Justice. One of its areas is the Legal Clinic, which provides free legal aid to the public. Cooperation agreements were also signed with the Legal Statistics Committee of the Prosecutor General’s Office, the Academy of Justice under the Supreme Judicial Council and the European Public Law Organization. In December, a regional office of the Council of Europe Centre opened at the University.

The University promotes legal awareness among both students and schoolchildren. In April 2025, the Institute of Constitutional and Political Studies, together with the Office of the Constitutional Court, held STUDY DIALOGUE for the 30th anniversary of the Constitution. The Student Ombudsman Club runs the “JauapBer” project, which teaches schoolchildren about the consequences of offences.

At MIND Talks, A. Rodionov spoke about corruption in the lecture “The Illusion of Deception”. A research seminar in February discussed the unintended consequences of anti-corruption policy. MNU is the base university of the Financial Monitoring Agency. In December 2025, the School of Economics and the Agency announced a minor in Financial Intelligence and Financial Security for the spring semester.

Since October 2024, students can take the certificate course Human Rights in the Global Economy. In October 2025, Anne Quintin of the ICRC spoke about challenges in international humanitarian law. International law students heard IAC Chairman Thomas Krümmel, took part in a Young ICCA session and attended the presentation of the “Commentary on the AIFC Court Rules”. In December, A. Abylaiuly’s textbook “Kazakhstan’s Law of International Treaties” was published in Kazakh and Russian.



Visiting session of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan at MNU, 2025

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARENCY

The University’s Academic Research Council and the academic committees of the higher schools include elected representatives of faculty, staff and students, while the interests of employers and the local community are represented through the Supervisory Board and Business Councils. The University recognises and funds an elected Student Government, the Student Ombudsman Club and more than 20 student organisations. It has an Anti-Corruption Policy, a Code of Ethics, an academic freedom policy and rules for working with Endowment Fund donors that rule out donor influence on study programmes. Financial statements are independently audited every year and published openly.

IN NUMBERS

347
law graduates in 2025

1st place
in the Atameken ranking for Law and International Law

2
chambers of Parliament held visiting sessions at MNU

25
civil servants from 10 bodies completed training

Sources: Memorandum with the Ministry of Justice; Council of Europe office



SDG 17

Partnerships for the Goals

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

EU forum “AI in Media” at MNU, December 2025

THE SDGs AT NATIONAL LEVEL

The SDGs are built into the University’s strategy. One of the goals of the 2024–2027 Strategic Plan is to increase research in SDG areas. The MIND centre prepares guidelines and research plans on the SDGs, involves young researchers and advises government bodies, business and civil society organisations.

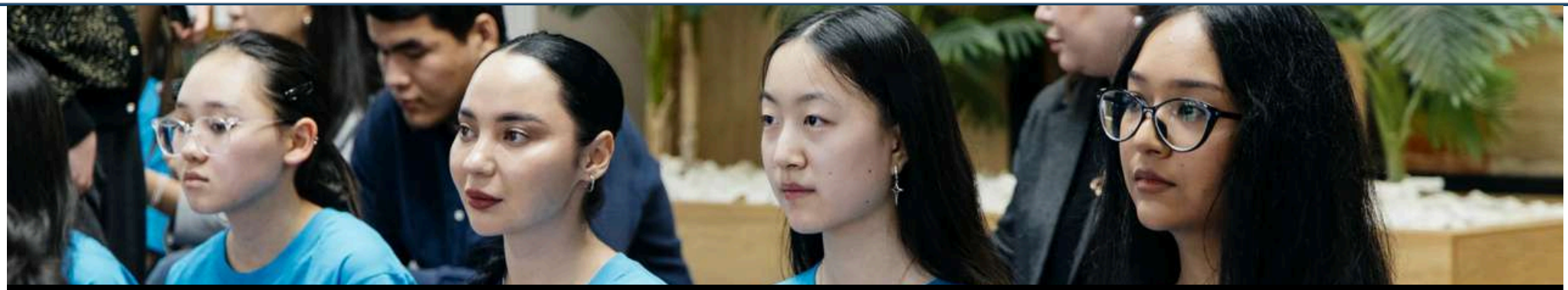
In December 2025, the University agreed with the Economic Research Institute, which hosts the SDG Secretariat, on joint research. The University will also contribute to Kazakhstan’s Second Voluntary National Review of the SDGs.

Contacts with the UN system were regular in 2025. In October, Joshua Lincoln, Senior Research Fellow at the Center for International Law and Governance of the Fletcher School (Tufts University) and Visiting Researcher at Kellogg College, University of Oxford, met University leadership on the SDGs. In November, the UN Resident Coordinator gave a lecture to students. In June, the UN Country Team and the Embassy of Spain held an expert dialogue on financing for development at MNU. In September, the UN Youth Council and the “Erkindik Ruhy” Commission under the Human Rights Commissioner organised a round table on young people’s contribution to the SDGs.

In October 2024, the University signed memoranda with Qazaq Independent Directors, the International Center for Green Technologies and Investment Projects and one of the national holding companies. In June 2025, the University signed a memorandum with the International Institute for Central Asia in Tashkent.

On 19 April 2025, the University hosted HR Open Day of the HR Managers Association. Guests toured the campus, and the Director of the Strategy and HR Department and the Deputy Director of the International School of Economics explained how the University creates an environment where talent grows.

Sources: Economic Research Institute Meeting with J. Lincoln



Round table "Kazakhstan's Youth Contribution to the SDGs", with UNICEF, 26 September 2025

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

University experts spoke at RUSI in London, presented the book "Projectification of Society: The Case of Kazakhstan" in Croatia and took part in the World Government Summit in Dubai. The CEGREG centre released four joint publications with The Hague Research Institute, and its staff spoke in Groningen, at the ESCAS conference, at a Ca' Foscari University forum and at the Turkic World Summer School in Istanbul. A. Kalkamanova completed the US State Department's IVLP programme.

In November 2025, University of Copenhagen professor Mikhail Suslov taught at MNU for a week under Erasmus+. A year earlier, philosophy lecturer K. Issabek went to Copenhagen for International Staff Week. A double degree programme runs with Hochschule Hof, and in September 2024 the leadership of its Faculty of Computer Science visited the University. Paris 8 University and the French Embassy remain CEGREG's partners.

In October 2024, MNU hosted participants of the Enactus World Cup from 33 countries. In June 2025, L.P. Devigne, Deputy Managing Director of the European External Action Service, met students, and in May the Chinese Language and Culture Day was held together with the Confucius Institute.

MNU teaches sustainable development to all bachelor's students: the compulsory CSI programme (Creativity, Service, Intellectual development) counts towards the integrated GPA. There are also specialised courses and minors in environmental law, human rights in the global economy, ESG and applied diplomacy.



Welcoming guests at the University, 2025

IN NUMBERS

2nd
Voluntary National Review of the SDGs, with MNU's input

33
countries at the Enactus World Cup at MNU

4
joint publications by CEGREG and The Hague Research Institute

4
new memoranda with partners

Sources: Youth and the SDGs RUSI, London University memoranda



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