



SDU UNIVERSITY

Quick Facts

Location (city, state): Kaskelen	Website: https://sdu.edu.kz/language/en/
Undergraduate student enrollment: 8075	Public/Private: private
Graduate student enrollment: 394	Type of Institution: HEI. Establishment

Institutional Description (limit 250 words):

SDU is a private university established in 1996 . The University offers degree programmes at Bachelor’s, Master’s and PhD levels. The vast majority of courses at bachelor’s level are taught in the medium of English. Kazakhstan signed up to the Bologna Declaration in 2010 and since this time, its HEIs have been adopting the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) in its universities in order to promote the international mobility of its staff and students. SDU currently has four faculties: Education & Humanities, Engineering & Natural Sciences, Law & Social Sciences, and the Business School. SDU operates a trilingual education system whereby 81% of its degree programmes are taught in English, 16% in Kazakh, and 3% in Russian.

Partnership Information

Possible Academic Areas of Collaboration: According to the plan, the university internationalization process involves a multi-stranded approach which will open-up the University to international standards and norms and will connect SDU to the global academic and business communities. Also, according to the plan will be established strategic partnerships with leading institutions. SDU strives to achieve the following objectives at the international level:

- Shared programs (including two plus two articulations and exchanges) and shared modules
- Internationally benchmarked and focused research including funded multi-party research projects
- An academic faculty with international standards of qualification, educational background and experience
- Leveraging of Technology Platforms to share learning with International Partners
- Student and staff mobility on a reciprocal basis, including visiting faculty - inbound and outbound
- Active, effective and mutually meaningful bilateral partnerships
- Collaborative research projects, and faculty exchanges in fields such as computer science and natural sciences.
- Collaborative programs focusing on entrepreneurship, international business, finance, and economics research, including joint conferences and workshops.
- Partnership opportunities in technology transfer, innovation management, and collaborative research projects in emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and cybersecurity.

Institutional Strengths: It is the first Kazakh university to offer bachelor's degree programmes which are accredited by the global accounting professional body, the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), with an unprecedented 9 out of 14 possible exemptions for the top 40 students in the fields of Accounting & Audit, plus Finance. Furthermore, its Marketing programme is recognised by the UK professional body, the Chartered Institute

of Management Accountants (CIMA).

SDU currently has active bi-lateral agreements with several institutions, plus 70 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) in 30 countries (including the UK, Europe and the USA). SDU invited professors from Warwick University, UK and Florida State University, USA under the program “visiting professors”, launched by the Ministry of Education. In addition SDU reaching staff are drawn from a number of countries, i.e. Australia, the UK and Turkey. Apart from the well-qualified teaching staff, SDU delivers courses with internationalized content. Moreover, many of the local teaching staff have earned their degrees (BA, MA, and PhD) from top HEIs from all over the world. SDU also works in Erasmus + projects. 1) Erasmus+ Project “ALLVET” HE and VET alliance and Erasmus + Project “ACeSYRI”. SDU has laboratories :Media studio, Law court, TechnoPark, Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC) FinLab, Sports fields. SDU library: Electronic catalog according to LCC standard (Library of Congress Classification), Operates on RFID system (Radio Frequency Identification System) Integrated library system of our own design (ILS), Open access to books. The main factor in the competitive success of SDU University is its reputation in the national and international educational markets. SDU University strives for high indicators of efficiency and quality of the university by participating in the process of accreditation, as well as in national and international rankings. Times Higher Education Impact Ranking 2022 (Rank: 1001+); QS World University Rankings 2024 (Rank:1201-1400) QS Asia University Rankings 2023: (World Rank: 500+; Central Asia Rank:25); QS WUR by Subject 2023: English Language and Literature (Global rank: 301-330; Domestic rank: 4) Ranking Web of Universities 2022 (World Rank: 4990, Country rank: 8); Round University Ranking 2022 (World rank: 892; Country rank: 3). SDU University got Cisco program certification – a prestigious recognition in IT infrastructure and networking. This program certification gives SDU University students access to wide range of resources, cutting-edge training materials, best practices, access to Cisco’s Learning Partner Program. In 2022, SDU University signed an agreement on the initial program accreditation of ACQUIN for the following programs: translation and two foreign languages (BA, MA) Educational programs subject to accreditation belong to the field of pedagogy and evaluation is carried out by independent international and national experts. In 2015, SDU passed the initial international institutional accreditation, confirming that the university meets all international accreditation standards. In 2022, 29 educational training programs were accredited as part of the IAAR program accreditation. For 27 years, SDU has received worldwide recognition in the national and international educational services market and continues to strengthen its status as one of the best universities in Kazakhstan.

At the national and international levels, ASIIN is recognized as a leader in the accreditation processes of educational programs in engineering, natural sciences, mathematics, computer science, as well as in medicine and economics. ASIIN certified engineering degrees are recognized in the European Union, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and other countries and their graduates are qualified to work as engineers in the aforementioned countries. International accreditation confirms the high quality of SDU University educational programs and their compliance with international standards. As well as have a partnership with ASIIN Global University Network of Excellence (AGUNE) and FIBAA.

Partnership Interests: SDU wishes to pursue different mutually beneficial forms of collaboration, e.g.: i) international student exchanges ii) joint PhD supervision (doctoral students in Kazakhstan are required to secure an international expert as their second supervisor); iii) staff exchanges that are likely to be of mutual pedagogical and institutional benefit, and iv) summer schools, joint conferences, joint publications, as well as joint research projects. Discussions on these and other forms of collaboration would very much be welcomed.

Interest in Partnership: Why are you interested in partnering with a U.S./Kazakh institution? What do you hope to gain from such a partnership?

In terms of the national targets, SDU has included strategic goals within its corporate strategy which include commitment to: providing quality education of accepted international standards; establishing strategic collaboration with leading world universities; developing training systems for academic and administrative staff that meet international standards. The internationalization process is the top priority for the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as it was mentioned in the State Program on Education

Development. As for the impact on the participants, it will affect their professional and personal development which will enhance knowledge, career growth, and competencies through international collaboration. Furthermore, it will foster intercultural competence among participants by immersing them in the global arena, thus, leading to the creation of an international network. Concerning the beneficiaries and partner institutions - it will improve the quality of education through the exchange of practices, knowledge, resources, and curriculum with foreign partner universities.

Main Partnership Contact: (name, title, email): Aidana Akhmedova, Chief Expert, iro@sdu.edu.kz ;
aidana.akhmedova@sdu.edu.kz