

## **STUDENTS' REPORT: Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan**

Exchange programs give many students opportunities to study abroad, to broaden their horizons and to be familiarized with new different culture. In this case University of Salzburg is one of these connecting threads which every year receives a lot of exchange students all over the world and my country is not an exception. We are from Kazakhstan and many students from our country come here in order to widen their knowledge and to gain some useful experience. During our stay here we made some new friends. While communicating with them we became acquainted with Austrian educational system, students' life and cultural features. Besides that, it was pleasure to listen to the lectures of excellent professors, to enjoy well-organized seminars and practical courses and to work in specially equipped classrooms of the University of Salzburg. It was unforgettable experience for us and we came to a decision that it might be interesting for students studying here to know a little bit about our university and our country.

Kazakhstan is one of the youngest developing Central Asian countries with the population of 17 million people. It is famous for its hospitable people, picturesque nature, minerals and oil. The government of Kazakhstan pays much attention to education of the youth since they believe that well-educated people can make great contributions to the future growth of Kazakhstan. Al-Farabi Kazakh National University is considered to be one of the best universities in Kazakhstan. It is one of the prestigious universities in Central Asia. Despite being young and dynamic it is gaining sustainable leadership in providing education services in the region. Kazakh National University was founded in 1934. The university has more than 19.000 students who study at 14 schools in Science, Engineering, Humanities and Social Sciences. It has very big campus with sport facilities, concert hall and 16 dormitories for students. Life in campus is seething. There are many youth organizations in KazNU. Students are very active and take part in different events. They organize various concerts, charity balls, debates on major international issues, festivals and competitions. Administration of the university encourages students and helps them in such cases. The program of academic modelling provides great possibilities for students. The university maintains close relations with leading universities from all around the world. One of such partner universities is the University of Salzburg, which welcomes our students and gives them chance to get qualifications from leading specialists of Austria. For that reason I want to express my deep gratitude to the University of Salzburg on behalf of all Kazakh students and say that students from the University of Salzburg will always be greatly welcomed in KazNU.

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