

APPROVED
at the meeting of the Academic
Council of NJSC Al-Farabi Kazakh
National University
Protocol №14 dated 16.06.2026

Entrance Examination Program for Applicants to Doctoral Studies
under the Group of Educational Programs
“8D054 – Turkology”

I. General Provisions

1. This program has been developed in accordance with Order No. 600 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated October 31, 2018, “On Approval of the Standard Rules for Admission to Educational Organizations Implementing Educational Programs of Higher and Postgraduate Education” (hereinafter referred to as the Standard Rules).

2. The entrance examination for doctoral studies under the group of educational programs “8D02208 – Turkology” consists of three blocks: an interview, essay writing, and an examination in the profile of the group of educational programs. The assessment structure is as follows:

Блок	Балы
1. Interview	30
2. Essay	20
3. Examination in the Profile Discipline of the Group of Educational Programs	50
Total / cut-off score	100/75

3. The total duration of the written part of the examination is 3 hours and 10 minutes, during which the applicant shall:

- A) write an essay (in English, at least 250 words);
- B) answer the questions of the electronic examination ticket in the field of specialization (covering three blocks).

4. The interview is conducted individually before the beginning of the written part of the examination.

II. Procedure for Conducting the Entrance Examination

1. *Interview*

Purpose: to determine the applicant’s motivation for doctoral studies, the level of awareness of their research interests, as well as their communicative and academic skills.

Format: the interview is conducted in a foreign language with the participation of members of the examination committee. The questions may cover the following topics:

- the applicant’s research interests and academic goals;
- previous academic and professional experience;
- the topic of the proposed dissertation research;
- current issues in foreign language teaching, intercultural communication, and academic writing.

Assessment Criteria:

- level of motivation and readiness for research activities;
- ability to formulate and justify scientific ideas;
- communicative competence (including proficiency in academic English);
- logical coherence and structural integrity of responses.

2. Essay

Purpose: to assess the applicant's analytical and creative abilities, demonstrated through the ability to present and substantiate their own position based on:

- theoretical knowledge;
- research interests;
- social and personal experience.

Types of Essays:

Motivational Essay – reveals the reasons for the applicant's interest in research activities and motivation for pursuing doctoral studies.

Scientific and Analytical Essay – demonstrates the level of understanding of the relevance and methodological foundations of the proposed research.

Problem-Oriented Essay – reflects the applicant's ability to analyze and discuss current scientific issues within the field of study.

Essay topics are developed with due consideration of the interdisciplinary nature of the program content, as well as current issues in linguistics, foreign language teaching methodology, intercultural communication, and the digitalization of language education.

Examination in the Profile of the Educational Program Group

Structure of the Examination

The examination consists of three blocks covering the core disciplines of the curriculum:

- Fundamentals of Turkology: Theory and Methodology;
- Fundamentals of Turkic Languages Lexicology and Phraseology;
- Linguistic Source Studies of Turkic Peoples.

The examination ticket consists of three questions (one question from each block).

Block 1. Theoretical Questions

This block is aimed at assessing the applicant's theoretical knowledge of the formation and development of Turkology, its major research directions and methodologies, the classification and historical development of Turkic languages, as well as the linguistic and cultural heritage of Turkic peoples. It also evaluates the applicant's mastery of the key concepts and scientific theories of Turkology.

Block 2. Application of Theoretical Knowledge

This block assesses the applicant's ability to apply theoretical knowledge in practice through the analysis of lexical and phraseological systems of Turkic languages, identification of semantic features of linguistic units, comparison of common Turkic and language-specific phenomena, and scientific description of lexical and phraseological materials. The tasks are designed to evaluate the applicant's ability to solve practical linguistic problems using theoretical knowledge.

Block 3. Situational Tasks

This block focuses on solving complex issues related to the linguistic, historical, and cultural heritage of Turkic peoples. Applicants are required to analyze linguistic source-study materials, interpret linguistic facts found in historical sources, and address research situations concerning linguistic and cultural connections within the Turkic world. Based on their knowledge of the relevant disciplines, applicants must demonstrate the ability to solve specific research problems and formulate scientifically grounded conclusions.

V. Topics for Preparation for the Examination in the Profile of the Educational Program Group

Course: "Fundamentals of Turkology: Theory and Methodology"

1. The subject, object, research methods, and sources of Turkology.
2. Turkic ethnogenesis, ethnography, and the scientific foundations of Turkological studies.
3. The typological characteristics of the Orkhon–Yenisey runic written monuments.
4. Linguistic and dialectal features of the written monuments of the Karakhanid period.
5. The stages of formation and development of Turkology.
6. The contribution of Russian and Western scholars of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries to Turkology.

7. The emergence of Turkology as an independent academic discipline in the second half of the nineteenth century.
8. The place and significance of Turkology in comparative-historical linguistics.
9. Schools of Turkic language teaching in Russia and the development of Turkology in the early twentieth century.
10. Major trends in Russian Turkology during the twentieth century.
11. The formation and contemporary directions of Kazakhstani Turkology.
12. Major schools and scholarly trends in world Turkology.
13. The Turkic language family and its geographical distribution.
14. Typological features and the agglutinative character of Turkic languages.
15. The formation and historical development of Turkic languages.
16. Proto-Turkic and issues of its reconstruction.
17. Genealogical and typological classification of languages.
18. Classification and periodization of Turkic languages.
19. The Altaic, Hun, and Old Turkic periods in the development of Turkic languages.
20. Medieval Turkic written heritage and its linguistic features.
21. The phonetic, morphological, and syntactic systems of modern Turkic languages.
22. Linguistic characteristics of the Turkic language groups (Kipchak, Oghuz, Karluk, Bulgar, Uyghur-Oghuz, and Kyrgyz-Kipchak).

Course: "Fundamentals of Lexicology and Phraseology of Turkic Languages"

1. The subject, object, and basic concepts of Turkic lexicology.
2. The word as a lexical unit and its semantic structure.
3. Word meaning and the phenomenon of polysemy in Turkic languages.
4. Homonymy in Turkic languages and its types.
5. Characteristics of homonyms, homophones, and homographs.
6. Synonymy and the system of synonyms in Turkic languages.
7. Antonymy and types of antonyms in Turkic languages.
8. Paronymy and the functions of paronyms in Turkic languages.
9. The formation and sources of development of Turkic vocabulary.
10. Native and borrowed vocabulary: features of adaptation.
11. Archaic words and neologisms in Turkic languages.
12. Vocabulary of limited usage: dialectisms, professional vocabulary, and jargon.
13. Stylistic differentiation of Turkic vocabulary.
14. Etymology of Turkic languages and principles of etymological research.
15. Turkic lexicography and types of dictionaries.
16. The object and major directions of research in Turkic phraseology.
17. Semantic classification of phraseological units.
18. Structural types of phraseological units.
19. Origin and formation of phraseological units.
20. The ethnolinguistic nature of phraseological units.
21. Cultural connotations and ethnocultural units in Turkic languages.
22. The lexical-semantic composition of phraseological units.
23. The linguistic nature and systemic characteristics of phraseological units.

Course: "Linguistic Source Studies of Turkic Peoples"

1. The significance of writing in the development of society and cultural history.
2. The history of writing among Turkic peoples and the stages of its development.
3. Linguistic source studies: subject, methods, and objectives.
4. Typology and classification of linguistic sources.

5. The history of the study of Old Turkic writing.
6. Scholarly theories concerning the origin of the Old Turkic runic alphabet.
7. Linguistic features of Old Turkic runic written monuments.
8. Turkic runology: issues of epigraphy, paleography, and linguistics.
9. The Orkhon, Yenisey, and Talas written monuments.
10. Turkic runic script and its phonological system.
11. Problems of reading, transliteration, and translation of Turkic runic texts.
12. Medieval Turkic written monuments in Arabic script.
13. “Dīwān Lughāt al-Turk” and other medieval lexicographic monuments.
14. The Chagatai written tradition and its place in the culture of Turkic peoples.
15. Runic inscriptions of the Irtysh region.
16. Runic and Greek-script inscriptions of the Ili region.
17. Runic inscriptions of the Syr Darya region.
18. Runic inscriptions of the Zhaiyk (Ural) region.
19. The development of writing systems from pictography to logography.
20. The genesis of the Old Turkic runic alphabet and its paleographic analysis.

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