

# Kazakhstan



## REGION: EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA (EECA)

Also included in this region: Poland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine

### PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

The Kazakh HE system closely follows the Former Eastern Bloc model. Half of all students were enrolled in short-cycle HEIs in 2018, with most of the remainder in comprehensive universities and a small number in specialised institutions. Due mainly to adverse demographic trends, total enrolments fell by nearly 20% between 2008 and 2018, which was a somewhat more modest decline than across the rest of the EECA. At the same time, however, the number of HEIs remained roughly constant, leading to a considerable reduction in average institution size. Just over half (52%) of students attended public providers in 2018, which was well below the average across the rest of the EECA.

TABLE 1 – Types of higher education providers

CATEGORY	INSTITUTIONS	INSTITUTIONS COUNT IN 2018		
		PUB.	PRIV.	TOTAL
<b>Comprehensive universities</b>	Universities	34	55	89
<b>Specialised Universities</b>	Academies and institutes	13	20	33
<b>Short-cycle HEIs</b>	Colleges	454	325	779

FIGURE 1 – Numbers of institutions by type, 2006-2018

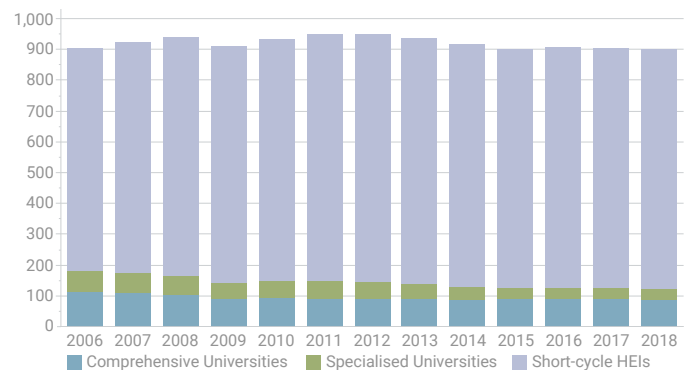
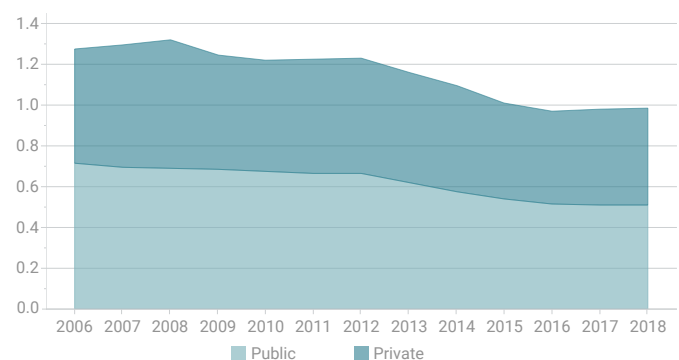
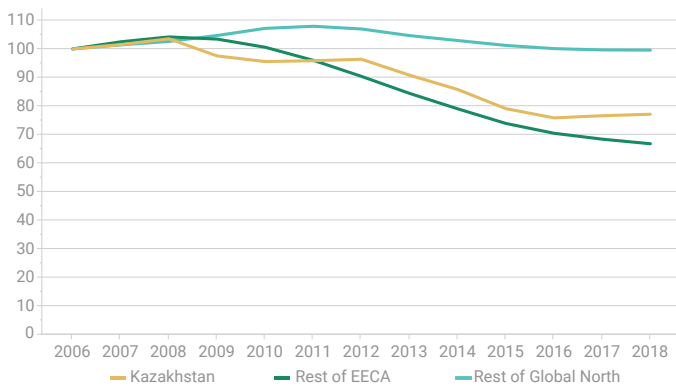


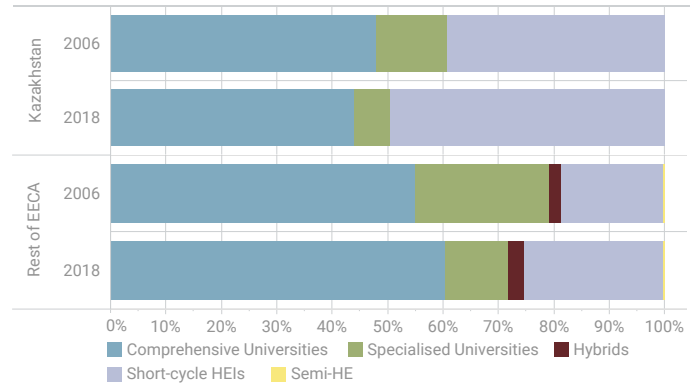
FIGURE 2 – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)



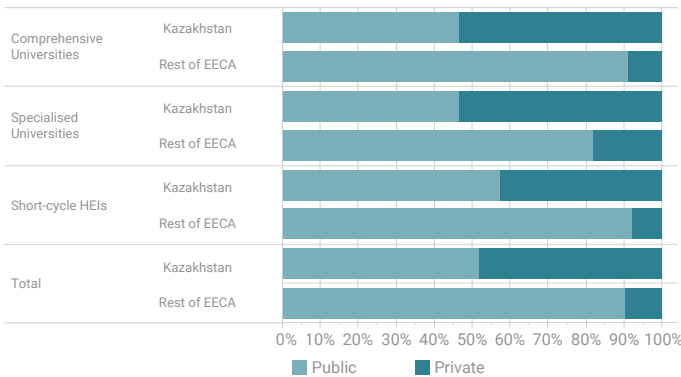
**FIGURE 3** – Changes in enrolment, in Kazakhstan, the rest of EECA and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



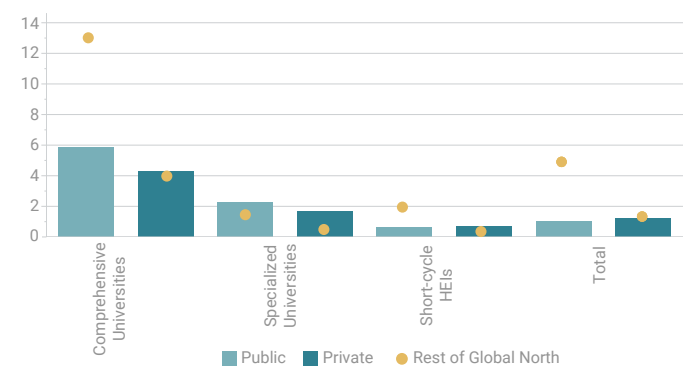
**FIGURE 4** – Share of enrolments by institution type in Kazakhstan and the rest of EECA, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)



**FIGURE 5** – Share of enrolments in public and private institutions, by institution type, Kazakhstan and the rest of EECA, 2018



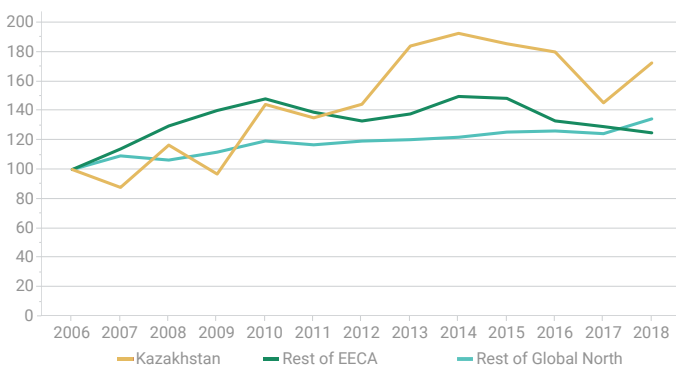
**FIGURE 6** – Average institution-size by institution type in Kazakhstan and the rest of the Global North, 2018 (Thousands)



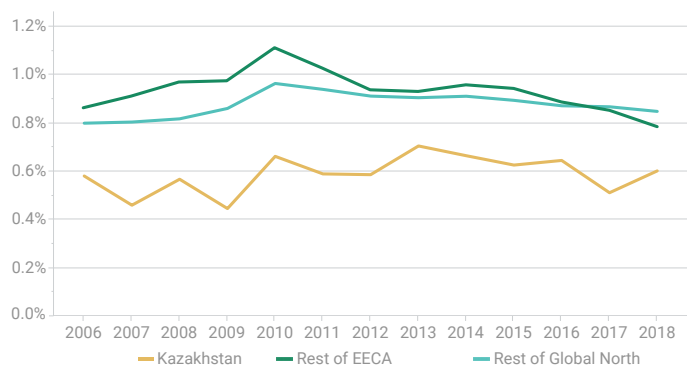
## PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

Public HE spending in Kazakhstan rose by about 75% from 2006 to 2018, much faster than across the rest of the EECA and the Global North. However, spending remained roughly constant relative to GDP at around 0.6%, which was well below comparator averages. Total expenditures at all types of public HEIs grew more slowly than total public spending, because most HEIs were heavily dependent on fee income, which was declining in line with enrolments.

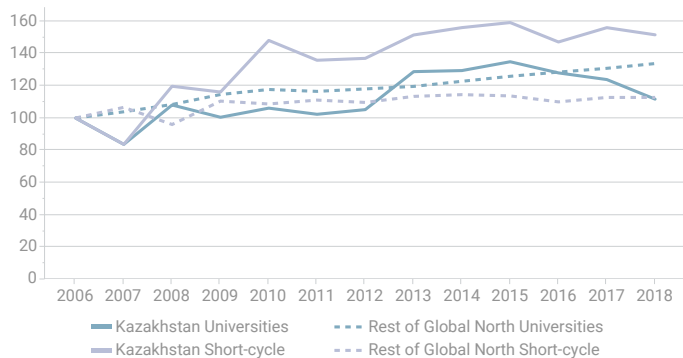
**FIGURE 7** – Change in real total public spending on higher education in Kazakhstan, the rest of EECA and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



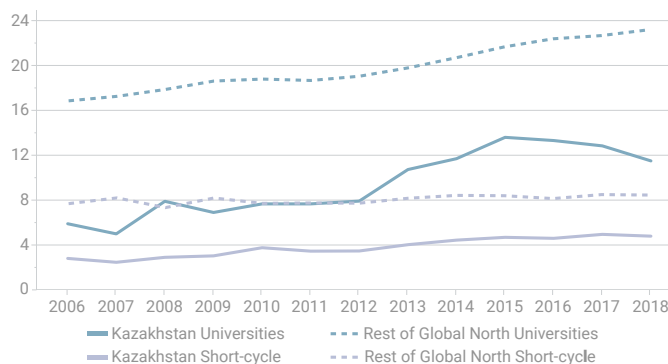
**FIGURE 8** – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in Kazakhstan, the rest of EECA and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



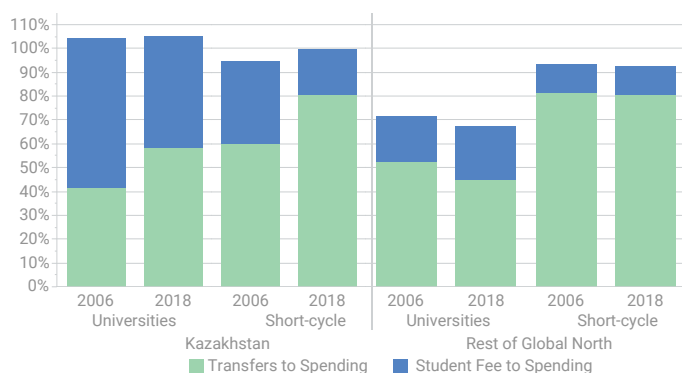
**FIGURE 9** – Change in real total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Kazakhstan and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



**FIGURE 10** – Per-student total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in real PPP, in Kazakhstan and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



**FIGURE 11** – Government transfers relative to total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Kazakhstan and the rest of the Global North, 2006 and 2018

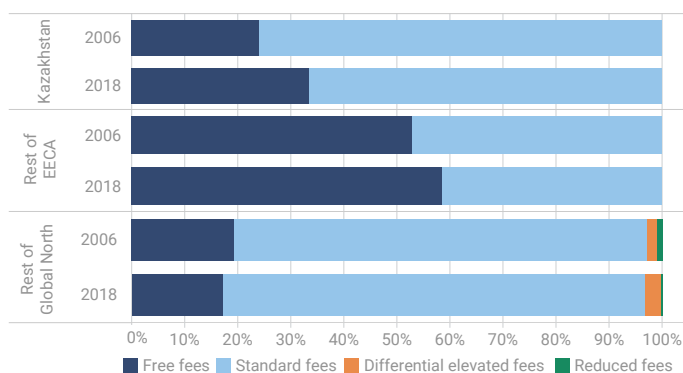


Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan

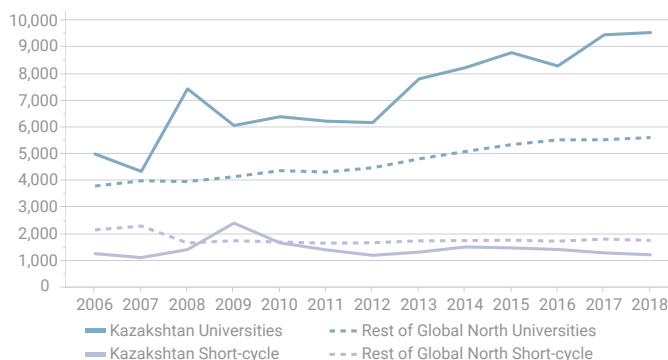
### PART III: STUDENT FEES

Roughly one-third (33%) of students in Kazakhstan paid no compulsory fees in 2018, under a mixed merit-based free public and differentiated fee-charging system. The share of fee-free students rose by about ten percentage points between 2006 and 2018 but remained substantially below average relative to the rest of the EECA. Fee revenues per fee-paying students rose dramatically between 2006 and 2018 at public universities, to a level much higher than the average across the rest of the Global North. By contrast, public short-cycle HEIs’ fee rates remained basically static, slightly below the average across the rest of the Global North.

**FIGURE 12** – Share of students at public institutions under each type of tuition regime in Kazakhstan, the rest of EECA and the rest of the Global North, 2006 and 2018



**FIGURE 13** – Fee revenues per student paying “regular” rates at public institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018



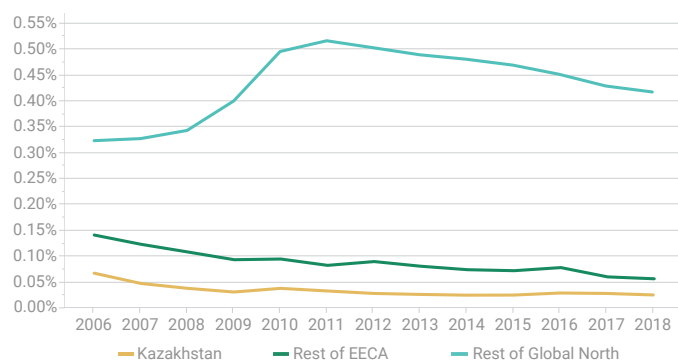
### PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Government student financial aid in Kazakhstan is effectively grant-only. We estimate that the country’s student loan program served less than 1% of students in 2018. Roughly 22% of all Kazakh students received grants in 2018, up by nearly half from 2006. However, these grants were very small, and their value eroded substantially during a period of relatively high inflation around 2007-2008. Total student financial aid disbursements fell by half relative to GDP over the 2006-2018 period, remaining well below average across the rest of the EECA, let alone the rest of the Global North.

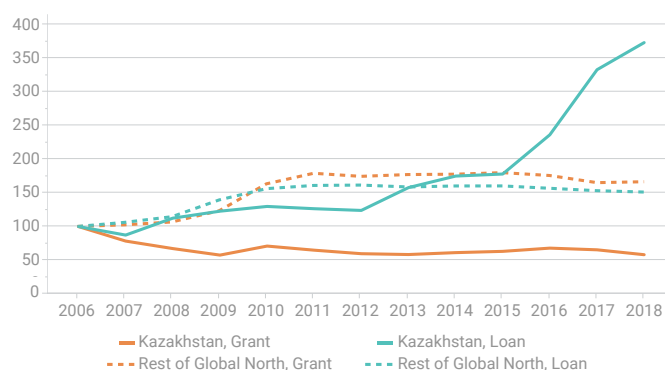
**TABLE 2** – Student financial aid regime, including recipients and amounts disbursed in 2018

CATEGORY	PROGRAMS	BASIS OF ALLOCATION	RECIPIENTS	AMOUNTS DISBURSED (USD)
Grants	Government stipends, which may be enhanced based on merit or need (such as for students with disabilities, orphans, etc.)	Merit, with supplements based on merit or need	213,628	102,012,256
Loans	Loans guaranteed by the JSC Financial Center of the Republic of Kazakhstan	Risk and merit-based	1,167	11,395,815

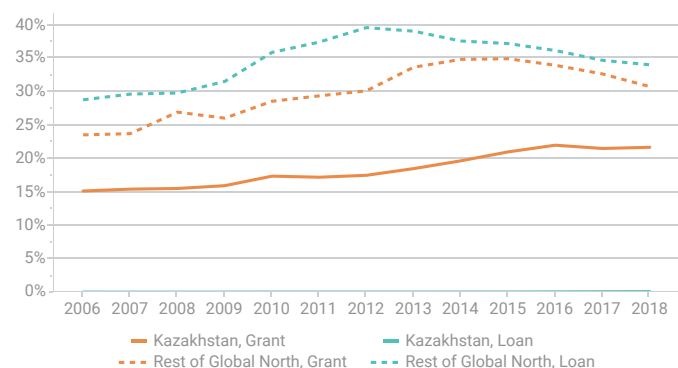
**FIGURE 14** – Total disbursements to students in financial aid relative to Gross Domestic Product in Kazakhstan, the rest of EECA and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



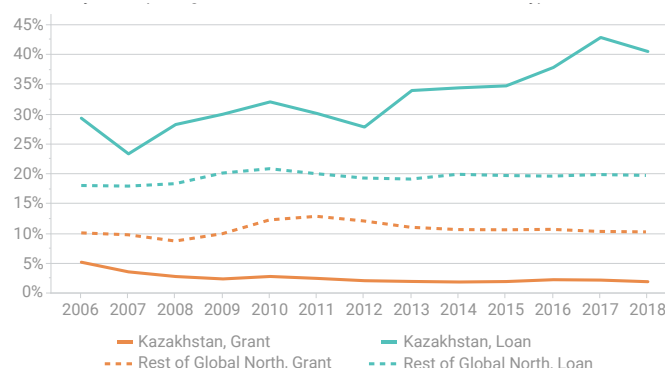
**FIGURE 15** – Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid in Kazakhstan and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



**FIGURE 16** – Share of higher education students receiving student financial aid by type, country and super region countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018



**FIGURE 17** – Financial aid per recipient relative to GDP per capita by form of financial aid, country and super region countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018



\*Note: For more on methodology and data quality please see [Appendices A and B](#).