

NU GSPP ORIENTATION PROGRAM

August 9-15, 2026

Sunday, August 9

Math Exam for MPP and PhD students (online):

The Math Exam will cover the necessary quantitative skills in preparation for the statistics and microeconomics courses. An email will be sent to all MPP and PhD students with instructions.

Day 1: Monday, August 10

Time	Activity	Venue	Status
09:00 – 09:30	Registration and Attendance Check	Entrance to Red Hall, C3	Mandatory for all students
09:30 – 10:15	Welcome by Dean of GSPP Riccardo Pelizzo	Red Hall, C3	Mandatory for all students
	Faculty and Staff Introduction		
	Q&A		
	Group Photo		
10:30 – 11:30	MPA Program Overview and Student Introduction: - <i>Student introduction;</i> - <i>Introduction to MPA program;</i> - <i>Master's Projects (MP)</i> - Q&A.	1010, C3	Mandatory for all MPA students
10:30 – 11:45	MPP Program Overview and Student Introduction: - <i>Student introduction;</i> - <i>Introduction to MPP program;</i> - <i>Policy Analysis Exercise (PAE);</i> - <i>Internship Program;</i> - Q&A	2003, C3	Mandatory for all MPP students
12:00 – 13:00	Welcome Session for All NU Graduate Students	Main Hall, C2	Mandatory for all students
14:00 – 15:00	Graduate Life Session	Main Hall, C2	Mandatory for all students
15:00 – 16:00	Photo Shoot of MPP and MPA Students	2021, C3	Mandatory for all MPP and MPA students
16:00 – 16:30	Photo Shoot of PhD Students	2021, C3	Mandatory for all PhD students

Day 2: Tuesday, August 11

Time	Activity	Venue	Status
10:00 – 11:00	Introduction to Library	Main Hall, C2	Mandatory for all students
11:00 – 12:00	University Healthcare Services	Online Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/join/484768952827123?p=7UHX8SXjs4pUigUJQB Meeting ID: 484 768 952 827 123 Passcode: Mz6nU6J5	Mandatory for all local students
12:30 – 13:10	PhD Program Overview, Thesis Overview and Student Introduction: - <i>Student introduction</i> ; - <i>Introduction to PhD program</i> ; - <i>Introduction to PhD Thesis</i> ; - Q&A.	2005, C3	Mandatory for all PhD students
13:15 – 14:00	How to Avoid Plagiarism	1010, C3	Mandatory for all students
14:00 – 15:00	Library Tour	NU Library, Block 5	Highly recommended for all students. Registration will be available on the library website
15:00 – 16:00	Library Tour	NU Library, Block 5	Highly recommended for all students. Registration will be available on the library website

Day 3: Wednesday, August 12

Time	Activity	Venue	Status
09:00 – 10:30	Adaptation Workshop I: You Are Not Becoming a Programmer – Data Tools for Public Policy Graduate Students	1010, C3	Voluntary by pre-registration
11:00 – 12:00	Introduction to the Office of the Registrar	Main Hall, C2	Mandatory for all students
12:00 – 13:00	Sustainability at Nazarbayev University: How Students Can Make an Impact	Orange Hall, C2	Recommended for students interested in sustainable campus development and

			environmental initiatives
14:00 - 15:00	Logical Reasoning	1010, C3	Mandatory for all students
15:00 – 16:00	Security and Anti-Terrorism Training	Main Hall, C2	Mandatory for all students
16:00 – 17:00	Bursar's Session	Main Hall, C2	Mandatory for all students

Day 4: Thursday, August 13

Time	Activity	Venue	Status
10:00 – 11:00	Academic Success Center	Orange Hall, C2	Highly recommended for all students
11:00 – 12:00	Presentation on NU Impact Foundation Ecosystem	Main Hall, C2	Recommended for all students
12:00 – 13:00	University Healthcare Services	Online https://meet.google.com/tks-kgha-tnk	Mandatory for all international students
13:30 – 15:00	Adaptation Workshop II: You Are Not Becoming a Programmer – Data Tools for Public Policy Graduate Students	1010, C3	Voluntary by pre-registration
15:00 – 16:00	IT Helpdesk and IT Cybersecurity	Main Hall, C2	Mandatory for all students
16:00 – 17:00	Department of Student Services Session	Main Hall, C2	Mandatory for all students

Day 5: Friday, August 14

Time	Activity	Venue	Status
9:00 – 12:00	“Policy on the Go!” team-building activity Students will perform several tasks in groups (mix of MPP, MPA, and PhD students)	Different venues across Astana	Mandatory for all students
12:00 – 13:00	Session for International Students	Blue Hall, C2	Mandatory for all international students

14:00 – 17:15 (two 1.5h sessions with break)	<i>Math Workshops I and II:</i> <i>The Math Workshop provides a refresher on mathematical principles, including basic algebra and foundations of derivative calculus. The Math Workshop is intended to prepare students ahead of time for the courses that require quantitative skills. Enrolment into the Math Workshop is based on obtaining less than 80 percent on the Math Exam.</i>	1010, C3	Selected MPP and PhD students
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Day 6: Saturday, August 15

Time	Activity	Venue	Status
10:00 – 11:00	GSPP Student Council and GSPP Alumni session	5E438	Mandatory for all students
11:00 – 13:00	Group presentations, awards and closing words	5E438	Mandatory for all students