

MANAT SERGAZINA

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Researcher and educator with 5+ years conducting high-impact research informing national policy in early childhood and higher education. Led fieldwork across Kazakhstan and worked with large data sets (7000+ student records). Skilled in quantitative and qualitative analysis, systematic review, and the use of AI and digital tools to strengthen research and teaching. Trilingual (English C1, Russian, Kazakh), with academic experience in Kazakhstan, the United States, and Sweden. Studying student success, well-being, and institutional structures and practices that shape educational trajectories.

EXPERIENCE

Senior Lecturer

Sep 2025 – Present

Maqsut Narikbayev University

Astana, Kazakhstan

- Taught 170+ students courses for advanced language acquisition and in educational technology, achieving 100% syllabus coverage through CEFR-aligned assessment design and continuous curriculum updates
- Designed and delivered a CALL-based teacher education course covering AI-assisted, mobile-assisted, and game-based language learning for 28 pre-service teachers, with original assessments requiring students to align technology choices with second-language acquisition theory and evidence-based methods
- Reduced protocol preparation time by 30% as Secretary of the Research Ethics Committee by building an AI-automated protocol-generation workflow, while reviewing 60+ Master's thesis ethics applications per semester
- Convened 100+ scholars from 10 countries by co-organizing an international interdisciplinary conference on language, tourism, psychology, and AI, managing trilingual abstract/full-paper review, participant correspondence, and event logistics
- Reached 17,000 views and 600 interactions across School of Liberal Arts channels (5,000+ followers) by creating a research-methods social media series on literature review frameworks, gap identification, database search-string development, and reference management
- Strengthened research and reading culture by designing a mixed-methods research seminar for graduate students and founding the university's English-language book club with 57 members

Research Assistant

May 2023 – Jun 2025

Central Asian Research Centre for Educational Innovation and Transformation

Astana, Kazakhstan

- Co-authored Q1 journal articles and a chapter of 2023 National Education Report of Kazakhstan as a core team member on "Nurturing Young Minds," a multi-year early childhood well-being project conducted in partnership with the University of Melbourne, Australia
- Collected the first child-voiced well-being dataset in a Central Asian context with 316 children (ages 4–7) in public and private kindergartens across multiple regions of Kazakhstan, navigating informed assent and child-safeguarding protocols in the field
- Served as one of two lead analysts for the project's flagship qualitative study, conducting PERMA-H-guided thematic analysis of 316 child interviews with NVivo, producing contextually grounded recommendations for early childhood educators and policymakers
- Led a PRISMA-guided systematic literature review on positive psychological interventions for young children's mental health, screening 2,900 records across six databases, managing deduplication and abstract screening, and conducting risk-of-bias assessment
- Co-authored a methodological publication on ethical research with young children by synthesizing multi-source reflexive data, producing practical guidance for human-subjects research in contexts where empirical work with children is newly emerging
- Investigated the impact of the Russia–Ukraine war on STEM student mobility in Kazakhstan by interviewing 25+ current and prospective mobile students across pre- and post-2022 graduating cohorts, co-authoring a peer-reviewed publication

Primary and Secondary School Teacher

Jan 2022 – Jul 2022

New Generation School

Almaty, Kazakhstan

- Taught English to 60+ students across four parallel classes (Grade 4 & Grade 8), designing differentiated lesson plans and materials for mixed-proficiency learners within each class
- Improved student assessment scores by 20% by replacing grammar-translation routines with a communicative language teaching approach centered on task-based interaction and authentic language use

- Raised performance and confidence of at-risk learners by delivering supplementary one-on-one and small-group instruction hours beyond the standard timetable with 10+ students, all reaching passing grades by year-end
- Strengthened the feedback loop between school and families by preparing structured progress reports and delivering individualized feedback to students, parents, and administration

Research Assistant

Aug 2021 – Dec 2021

KIMEP University

Almaty, Kazakhstan

- Produced policy memos and briefs on social policy and urban planning for University of California Irvine Visiting Doctoral Fellow, condensing complex data into accessible formats for presentation
- Secured access to high-quality policy data by establishing contacts with ministries and NGOs and arranging stakeholder interviews, providing simultaneous Russian/Kazakh-English interpretation during fieldwork
- Transcribed interviews and press conferences, building the project's primary-source record for analysis

EDUCATION

Nazarbayev University

Astana, Kazakhstan

MSc in Higher Education Leadership / GPA: 3.89/4.0 / Top 10% of Class 2024

KIMEP University

Almaty, Kazakhstan

BA in Foreign Languages (English and German) / GPA: 4.31/4.33 / Summa Cum Laude

SKILLS

Research & Methods: Mixed-methods design, survival analysis, hypothesis testing (t-tests, ANOVA), multiple regression, systematic literature review (PRISMA), interview & focus-group design, reflexive/qualitative methods

Teaching: Curriculum and assessment design, Communicative language teaching (CLT), Task-based learning (TBL), Digital & AI literacy

Data & Analytics: Statistical analysis and reporting, data cleaning, Excel, jamovi, NVivo, scholarly dissemination

AI & Automation Tools: ChatGPT, Claude (Skills, Projects, Code), Gemini, AI-assisted workflows

Languages: Kazakh (native), Russian (native), English (C1; IELTS 8.0, TOEFL 113)

HONORS & AWARDS

FLEX Program by U.S. Department of State (2016-2017): Selected as 1 of 125 students (top 1.6%) from 8,000+ applicants for a fully funded one-year academic and leadership exchange in the United States, focused on cultural diplomacy, leadership development, and academic excellence

Erasmus+ Mobility Scholarship by European Union (2021): Awarded EU-funded scholarship on academic merit for a six-month exchange at Uppsala University, Sweden

Oceanman World Championship 2024: Top 10 finisher; Qualified for Oceanman World Championship 2025