

Aruzhan Muratbek

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EDUCATION

Northwestern University in Qatar, Doha, Qatar

Expected May 2028

Bachelor of Science in Journalism and Strategic Communication; Minor in Media & Politics (Joint Program with Georgetown University in Qatar)

Cumulative GPA: 3.84/4.00 | Dean's List: Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Spring 2026

JOURNALISM & MEDIA EXPERIENCE

YEL Journal, Youth Economy Lab, Remote

Fall 2026 – present

Editor (Intern) — global student-run journal on economics and policy

- Review and approve pitches from student correspondents, giving each writer clear, specific feedback
- Track correspondents' deadlines and follow up to keep pieces on the publication schedule

Altai TV (Qazaqstan TV Regional Branch), Ust-Kamenogorsk, Kazakhstan

May – Jul 2025

News Reporter Intern — funded by Northwestern's Summer Internship Grant Program

- Wrote and edited 8+ on-air news segments on regional social issues for daily broadcast
- Interviewed public officials on camera in Kazakh and Russian, working to daily broadcast deadlines

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

HEC Paris, Doha, Qatar

Oct 2026 – present

Research Assistant, Organizations, Communities & Social Impact; supervised by Prof. Amin Yousefi

- Conduct literature searches, literature mapping and qualitative coding for ethnographic research

Summer Undergraduate Research Grant (SURG), Northwestern University

Jun – Aug 2026

Undergraduate Researcher, "Lost in Translation: Evaluating AI Performance in the Kazakh Language and Its Consequences for Information Access"; mentored by Prof. Wajdi Zaghouani

- Won a competitive \$4,000 grant to benchmark ChatGPT, Gemini, and Claude on 60 standardized prompts in Kazakh and Russian, scoring 360 responses for accuracy, fluency, cultural fit, and handling of sensitive content
- Drafted the protocol and trilingual consent forms approved by 2 institutional review boards; interviewed Kazakh-dominant speakers in Kazakh and Russian and coded the interviews thematically
- Preparing a paper on AI language equity in low-resource languages for submission to a peer-reviewed venue

Institute for Advanced Study (IAS), Northwestern University in Qatar

Jan 2026 – present

Global Undergraduate Fellow, "'It's Just a Meme': Digital Humor as Soft Political Critique in Kazakhstan"

- Conducting a self-designed study of political memes as soft dissent in Kazakhstan's authoritarian context
- Sourced and analyzed an original dataset of 100+ memes across 50+ analytical dimensions

MARSAD Lab, Northwestern University in Qatar

2025 – present

Research Assistant to Prof. Wajdi Zaghouani

- Contributed 2,000+ evaluation prompts for safety testing of Kazakh-language AI models
- Annotated 2,500+ Instagram posts for a study of Gen Z political participation, using systematic coding

PRESENTATIONS & TRAINING

CNN Academy Training Program — mobile journalism, digital storytelling, verification; Media City Qatar, Oct 2026

"Beyond the 'Banking' Model," Conference Presentation, TEACHx 2026, Northwestern University; May 2026

SKILLS

Languages: Native in Kazakh and Russian. Fluent in English. Basic Turkish

Journalism: Proficient in broadcast scriptwriting, on-camera interviewing, fact-checking, and AP-style editing

Research: Proficient in qualitative and mixed-methods coding, interviewing, and AI benchmarking

Technical: Proficient in Adobe Premiere Pro, CapCut, Canva, Microsoft Office; working knowledge of Figma