

Bishkek International School

LEARNING DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & COUNSELING TEAM 2023/24

Inclusive education is a core commitment of BIS, with all staff involved in supporting the diverse needs of individual students, and several staff with specific skills and experience in meeting different needs. Leading this approach, we have a dedicated Learning Diversity, Inclusion and Counselling (LDIC) team to ensure that needs are met.

Learning Diversity, Inclusion & Counselling Coordinator



Kyzjibek Tekenova

Ms Kyzjibek graduated from the Kyrgyz Russian Slavic University and has a Diploma in Theory and Practice of Translation. She taught English before joining BIS as a teacher in summer 2017. In summer 2018 Ms Kyzjibek joined the LDIC team, where her outstanding commitment to all areas of LDIC led to her appointment as Deputy LDIC Coordinator in 2022, and as LDIC Coordinator in summer 2023. Ms Kyzjibek is also currently studying a Masters of Education in Special Education Needs and Disability with Middlesex University London.

Learning Diversity and Inclusion Specialist



Branka Kovacevic

Ms Branka holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Belgrade and has over 15 years of experience teaching in different schools, including the Business Technical College, the STEM High school in Serbia, and an international school in Moscow. In Moscow she worked closely with the special educational needs department, supporting various IB PYP program students, including those with unique capabilities, in adhering to their needs, goals, and struggles. Ms. Branka was awarded an ECIS Certificate in 2020 and a SEND Diploma Certificate in 2023. Ms Branka joined the BIS team in January 2023.

Speech, Language and Communications Specialist



Leanne Bowler

Ms Leanne graduated from University College London with a degree in Speech Sciences. She worked as a Speech and Language Therapist in London for 4 years before living in Kyrgyzstan, Jerusalem and Ukraine, where she continued to work as a Speech and Language Therapist in schools, preschools, clinics, hospitals and in family homes. Leanne is excited to return to Kyrgyzstan and to continue to help children to reach their full potential by supporting their communication skills.

Learning Diversity and Inclusion Specialist



Aliia Nurdin kyzy

Ms Aliia graduated from INTI International College Subang (Malaysia) in collaboration with Southern New Hampshire University (USA) with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. While studying in Malaysia, Ms Aliia frequently volunteered to work with children, including experience working with children with special needs. In her free time, she loves reading, as well as yoga, and stretching. Ms Aliia joined the BIS team in summer 2022.

Learning Diversity and Inclusion Specialist



Mira Satarova

Ms Mira has a Bachelor's degree in Communications with a minor degree Public Relations and Advertising from Kyrgyz-Turkish "Manas" University (KTMU). She worked as a coordinator for the children with disabilities in a Kyrgyz-Korean charitable foundation and also took part in the first taekwondo trainings for children with disabilities in Kyrgyzstan. Ms Mira volunteered in the Child Protection Centre for families with low income and also with women and children who were suffering from violence. Her hobbies are reading and music (playing drums, flute, and ukulele) Ms Zhibek joined the BIS team in autumn 2023.

Learning Diversity and Inclusion Specialist & Spanish Language Teacher



Marc Garreta

Mr Marc graduated as a psychologist in the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain and also holds a master degree in Learning Difficulties and Disorders from Universitat Oberta de Catalunya. He has teaching experience in Spain, Indonesia and Kyrgyzstan. Mr Marc loves teaching his own language as well as supporting diverse students to include them in the learning environment. He joined the BIS team in summer 2022.

Primary and Middle School Counselor



Zhibek Kenzhebaeva

Ms Zhibek has a Master degree in Applied Psychology with a Child and Adolescent Counselling Concentration, from the American University in Central Asia. She also has a Bachelor's degree in Biomedical Engineering with a minor in Biological Science from Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST) in South Korea. Prior to her Masters, she worked as an educational consultant. Ms Zhibek enjoys reading and is a founder of an online book club. Ms Zhibek joined the BIS team in summer 2021.

High School Counselor & University Counselor



Valeria Totolina

Ms Valeria graduated from the American University in Central Asia with a Master Degree in Applied Psychology with a special focus on adolescents and adult counselling. Her work experience includes individual and group counselling sessions with adolescents and adults under the Psychological Health Institution, and providing individual career counselling and leading career-oriented lectures and events for adolescents. Ms Valeria joined BIS in June 2020.

LDI Consultant



Kathryn Ryder

Ms Kathryn graduated in French and German from the University of Exeter in 2001 and taught English abroad until 2004. After a break from teaching to explore other areas, she returned to education in 2010 with an MA in Special Educational Needs/Dyslexia while supporting children who needed extra help during and after school. Ms Kathryn joined BIS in September 2020. She is passionate about giving every child the chance to succeed at whatever they want to do in life and is happy to have found a position at BIS which will enable her to do this.