

Bishkek International School

ACADEMIC DIVISION LEADERS 2024/25

Primary Years Programme: Preschool to Grade 5

Primary School Assistant Principal



Elina Ignatova

Ms Elina graduated from the Faculty of Linguistics and Translation of Chelyabinsk State University, Russia, then worked in Bishkek as a private tutor with international students of different ages. Ms Elina joined BIS as a Co-Teacher in summer 2018 and worked for two years before taking maternity leave. She returned in later 2022 as Co-Teacher in Grade 5, before promotion to Primary School Assistant Principal in summer 2023. Ms Elina is currently studying for a Masters in Teaching.

IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) Coordinator



Maria Corbett

Ms Maria graduated from ISAE University of Panama, with a diploma in Primary Years Education. She has 15 years of teaching experience, 7 of which have been in International Baccalaureate schools. She has worked with diverse age groups and has experience as a first-grade and second-grade homeroom teacher, English Language Acquisition (EAL) teacher for early grades and middle school, and Spanish as an Additional Language (SAL) teacher for upper elementary. Her experience in education goes beyond classrooms as an IB Primary Years Programme librarian for 4 years. Ms. Maria joined the BIS team in summer 2022.

Middle School: Grades 6-8

Middle School Assistant Principal



Gulbara Akunova

Ms Gulbara graduated from Bishkek Humanities University with a degree in English Language Teaching. During her studies, she participated in two exchange programs in the USA and China. She also holds a postgraduate degree in Central Asian regional studies from the Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Federation in Moscow. She has experience working in public schools in Bishkek and with international organizations before joining BIS in 2020. Gulbara is interested in promoting community projects among middle school students that can bring valuable benefits to the local community.

IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) Coordinator

Nadine Lemoine



Ms Nadine holds a B.A. in Environmental Studies, a Master's in Geography and Planning and a B.Ed in Secondary Education. Prior to joining the BIS team, Ms. Nadine worked with various international environmental and human rights NGOs in Afghanistan, Cameroon and the Caribbean and worked in International Schools in China, South Korea, Albania and Romania. Ms. Nadine is also an IB examiner and has a keen interest in project and inquiry-based learning. In her spare time, Ms. Nadine enjoys rock climbing, mountain biking and studying yoga. Ms Nadine joined BIS in summer 2023.

High School: Grades 9-12

High School Assistant Principal



Nurbek Chagataev

Mr Nurbek graduated from the Cyprus International University with a degree in International Relations. His work experience includes working in guest relations at the 'Warner Brothers World Abu Dhabi', and at the Republican Centre for Health Protection in the Kyrgyz Republic. His responsibilities in BIS include student reports, records, and transcripts, setting all timetables, setting and administering the Cambridge IGCSE examinations, Coordinating SAT exams, and Extended Essay Coordinator for the IB Diploma Programme. Mr Nurbek joined BIS in September 2020.

IB Diploma Programme (DP) and Cambridge IGCSE Coordinator



Makiko Inaba

Ms Makiko has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Waseda University in Japan. Foreign languages and cultures have always been her passion and she has lived in the United States, South Korea, France, China and the Kyrgyz Republic in pursuit of that passion. She has the UK Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and has experience teaching students ranging from elementary to high school level. Ms Makiko joined BIS in summer 2014 and is a much-loved teacher with exceptional skills in education. Ms Makiko has been IB Diploma Programme Coordinator since 2017.

National Curriculum: Preschool to Grade 11

National Curriculum Administrator



Alban Chokushov

Mr Alban graduated from the Kyrgyz State Law Academy, where he studied international law. In 2020, he graduated with a master's degree from the Guizhou National University. He worked in such organizations as the Taiwan Fund for Children and Families, Good Neighbors International in the Kyrgyz Republic, and Fair and Sustainable Development Solutions Public Foundation. He joined the BIS team in March 2023. His responsibilities include all registrations and documents for students studying the national curriculum programme at BIS.

National Curriculum Coordinator



Chynara Abdyraeva

Ms Chynara has a Doctorate in Education from Arabaev Kyrgyz State University. She worked for many years in the University sector, including work with the Ministry of Education and Science for curriculum accreditation. Ms Chynara is responsible for BIS accreditation with the Ministry in order for the school to hold national examinations at BIS for Grade 9 and Grade 11 students, enabling local students to graduate with a local High School certificate in addition to our internationally accredited programs.