

Bishkek International School

LEARNING DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & COUNSELING TEAM 2024/25

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 graduated from the Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy in Belgrade and has over 17 years of teaching experience, including at the Business Technical College, a STEM-oriented high school in Serbia, and the Anglo-American School in Moscow. There, she worked closely with the Special Educational Needs Department, supporting various IB PYP students with unique needs. She got ECIS Certificate in 2020, SEND Diploma and UDL in 2023, and Understanding Dyslexia Diploma and Supporting Students with Dyscalculia in 2024. 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 Mira 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.

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.

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.

Middle School Counselor



Asmana Matraimova

Ms Asmana graduated from Goldsmiths University of London with a BSc in Psychology and Clinical Psychology. After graduating she worked as an English as a Second Language teacher in South Korea for two years, before completing a MSc in Mental Health Studies at King's College University of London. Since 2022 she has been living in Bishkek and completed a counselling internship at AUCA in 2023, and continues to work with adult clients there, while also working as a school counsellor. Ms Asmana is happy to be back in her home country and hopes to spread awareness and improve mental health care.

Primary School Counselor



Meerim Ryskulova

Ms Meerim graduated from American University in Central Asia in 2020 with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. Immediately after graduation, Ms. Meerim went to work in private schools in Bishkek as a school psychologist. She has a working experience of 4 years. She also completed advanced training courses in Eastern European Gestalt Institute on "Child Gestalt therapy". In her free time Ms. Meerim likes reading, rollerblading and hiking. Ms Meerim joined BIS in August 2024.

Psychiatrist and Behavioral Specialist; Theory of Knowledge Teacher



Andrey Badalov

Mr Andrey graduated from Osh State University with a degree in general medicine, as well as a residency in Psychiatry at the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University. To gain the opportunity to fully and comprehensively work with children, he received additional education in such specialties as Clinical Psychology, Neuropsychology, Defectology and Speech Therapy. For 10 years he has been engaged in research in the field of normal and pathological psychophysiology. He considers the individual examination of each child to be a priority in her work in order to clarify all the possibilities and risks of development. Mr. Andrey joined BIS in summer 2024.

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.

One-to-one Support Assistant



Gulkair Ismailova

Ms Gulkair graduated from Bishkek Humanities University in 1998, her major was English Language and Literature. She worked in the Representative Office of British Company Alex Stewart (Assayers) in Bishkek for 6 years as Office Manager and later as a Traffic Operator. She has also worked at numerous International Organizations as GIZ, and at projects funded by the World Bank. Also, she worked at AUCA as an OSI Scholarship Program Coordinator.

One-to-one Support Assistant



Rakhat Osmonova

Ms Rakhat has Bachelor's degree in Linguistics from the International University of Kyrgyzstan and Master's degree in Economics from the Kyrgyz Economic University. She worked at the Asian Medical Institute named after Satkynbai Tentishev as a laboratory assistant at the Department of Surgical Disciplines. Miss Rakhat joined the BIS team in spring 2024 and is very excited to be part of the BIS community.

Early Years PYP Homeroom/ LDI Support Teacher



Syeda Nayna Ahmed

Ms Nayna has over 15 years of experience working in the Education sector, working with children from a range of backgrounds, ages, and abilities. Ms Nayna has taught in the Early Years Foundation Stage and KS1, delivering the British National curriculum. Additionally, she has extensive experience in teaching phonics, early mathematics, literacy, and science, and has developed strong abilities to teach in an enthusiastic and creative manner. Ms Nayna gained her Newly Qualified Teacher status while teaching at a Specialist School in London, UK, for children aged 5-7 with varying needs including Autism, global development delay, and ADHD.