

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.

LDIC Specialist; PYP Math Lead Specialist & MYP Math Teacher



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 be back in Kyrgyzstan and to continue to help children to reach their full potential by supporting their communication skills.

Learning Diversity and Inclusion Specialist



Mira Satarova

Ms Mira joined BIS in 2023 and works in the Inclusion department. She graduated from Kyrgyz Turkish University Manas with a degree in Public Relations, and her passion for inclusion began in her teens through volunteer work at special centers. During her undergraduate studies, she worked with a Korean charity supporting inclusive education for children. Currently pursuing a Master's in Applied Psychology at AUCA and Bard College, New York, Ms Mira has also contributed to human rights initiatives funded by the UN and OSCE, focusing on child protection. Outside of work, she enjoys Japanese taiko drumming, reflecting her dedication to cultural and community engagement.

Learning Diversity and Inclusion Specialist



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.

Learning Diversity and Inclusion Specialist



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.

Neuro-Psychologist & Behavioral Specialist, DP 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.

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.

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 continued 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. Ms Asmana joined the BIS team in summer '24

Primary School Counselor



Meerim Ryskulova

Ms Meerim graduated from the 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 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 the BIS team in August 2024.

One-to-one Learning & Support Assistant



Gulkair Ismailova

Ms Gulkair graduated from Bishkek Humanities University in 1998, her major was English Language and Literature. Ms. Gulkair's career in Education started since the time she started working for AUCA as a Coordinator of OSI Scholarship Program, as she was also teaching English Language at AUCA, at Preparatory Program. She started working with children, who needed special attention and different approach, when she worked at local secondary schools. With her work Ms. Gulkair would like to contribute to development of not only inclusive schools but also inclusive societies. Ms Gulkair joined the BIS team in spring 2024.

One-to-one Learning & Support Assistant



Erzhan Abdyldaev

Mr Erzhan is studying at the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University, majoring in Psychology. His work experience includes conducting training sessions and psychological consultations with young people from vulnerable groups, as well as providing comprehensive support as part of the activities of the charitable foundation "Oasis". He began to be interested in inclusive education in 2024 during an internship at School-Gymnasium No. 12, where he worked as an assistant psychologist. Mr Erzhan joined the BIS team in January 2025.