Bishkek International School

SPECIALIST EXPLORER & GUIDE TEAM 2026/2027

Head of Individuals & Societies Department / Geography & Theory of Knowledge Explorer & Guide



Andrew Wheeler

Mr. Andrew has a Master's degree in Anthropology from the American University in Central Asia (AUCA) in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, where he received a Red Diploma, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies, Cross-Cultural Studies, and Peace Studies from Whitworth University, Washington State. Before joining the BIS team in August 2018, he served for two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer teaching English as a Foreign Language in Naryn, Kyrgyzstan. He is now completing his Master's degree in Teaching Social Studies at AUCA.

History Teacher



Megan Bagdonas

Ms. Bagdonas has Bachelor of Arts in History and Film Studies from the University of California Santa Barbara. Her first Master's degree is in Journalism from the University of Southern California, after which she worked with Los Angeles newspaper covering city and government news. Ms. Bagdonas was awarded with a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship and studied Swahili in Zanzibar and the effects of colonial schooling practices in Tanzania. She then dedicated herself to education and received her teaching certification and license from The College of New Jersey and then earned her second Masters in international education from the Southern University of New York. She has worked as a teacher in Bolivia, the Congo, Qatar, Nigeria, Costa Rica, and Russia.

Individuals & Societies Teacher



Matthew Vandewaal Valkanov

Mr. Matthew studied History at the Universite Libre de Bruxelles, French-English-Spanish translation at the Institut Superieur de Traducteurs et Interpretes, and holds a Professional Qualification in Tourism and Services from the Institut des Sacres-Coeurs de Waterloo. He came to Kyrgyzstan as a Social Development Expert for an NGO in 2016, he has since worked in universities and private schools teaching English, Global Perspectives and Critical Thinking, and now Individuals and Societies. He has been working with children for almost 20 years, volunteering at crisis centers for victims of abuse, running after-school clubs for troubled teens, and leading scout groups. Mr Matthew joined the BIS team in summer 2024.

Economics Teacher



Azamat Kasymov

Mr. Azamat holds a Master's Degree from the American University of Central Asia (AUCA), where he also served as a mathematics instructor. As a part-time research assistant, he has co-authored numerous mathematics textbooks ranging from primary to university levels. Additionally, he holds an International Education Certificate for the Diploma Programme from the University of Toronto and is a qualified IB and IGCSE examiner.

Theory of Knowledge Teacher / Middle School Academic Coordinator



Claire Berger

Ms. Claire holds a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in International Affairs from Texas A&M University. She previously worked as a History teacher at BIS, and has also worked in the US, Romania, South Korea, and New Zealand. Ms. Claire is rejoining BIS in August 2026 as the Middle School Academic Coordinator.

Host Country Studies Teacher / Middle School Principal



Gulbara Akunova

Ms. Gulbara has a Bachelor' degree of English Language Teacher from Bishkek Humanities University. During her study she experienced two exchange programs in the USA and China. From September 2019 to August 2020 Gulbara worked as a Reference and Instruction Specialist in the American University in Central Asia Library. Currently she is completing her post graduate study in the field of Central Asian region at The Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Federation in Moscow. Ms Gulbara joined BIS in November 2020.

Business Studies Teacher / Senior University and Career Counselor



Lané Spies

Ms. Lané graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Economics with Risk and Investment Management from the Northwest University in South Africa. She has experience in the logistics and financial services industry before making the transition into tertiary education. She worked for a private university in South Africa as a senior student advisor, helping local and international students choose a qualification that suits their academic potential and lifetime goals. She also assisted with the administration and registration of all the students she worked with. Ms Lané joined the BIS team in summer 2024.

University and Career Counselor



Dastan Kurmanov

Mr. Dastan received BS in Economics from International University of Kyrgyzstan and AS in Hospitality Management from Mercyhurst University, PA USA. He has more than 10 years of experience in the hospitality industry across international organizations and projects. Performed as Peer Mentor at Mercyhurst University and served as Training Manager at the FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

Business Studies Teacher / Strategic Lead for Education Systems Innovation



Ivan Ninenko

Mr. Ivan has worked in Russian and American universities as a teacher, researcher, administrator and educational designer. In 2017 he co-authored "Future Skills: How to Thrive in the Complex New World", which set out the transformation in education now being driven by artificial intelligence. He moved to Kyrgyzstan in 2022, where he played a vital role in launching Teach For Kyrgyzstan and created the Master's programme "Pedagogy in Times of Change" at the International University of Central Asia. He holds degrees in Economics and Political Science from the Higher School of Economics in Moscow, and carried out doctoral research in neuroscience at the same institution.

Head of Computer Science and Design Department / Design Technology & Computer Science Teacher



Francois Spies

Mr. Spies graduated from the University of the North West in South Africa, with a bachelor's degree in Education of technology specializing in Mechanical Engineering and Graphic design. He taught design in schools in South Africa for several years before joining the BIS team in summer 2024. Mr. Spies strives to motivate learners to become critical thinkers and to think outside the box to solve problems.

Computer Science Teacher



Arslan Sultanbek uulu

Mr. Arslan has a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Alatoo International University. He has worked as a Python backend developer and a Python teacher in a IT company, as well as a software engineer at Elcart - National Payment System. Mr. Arslan is passionate about technology and education, striving to inspire his students to embrace the dynamic world of programming. He joined BIS in the summer of 2024 and aims to cultivate a strong analytical mindset in his students.

Primary ICT Teacher



Gulsana Niiazbek kyzy

Ms. Gulsana has a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from the International University of Central Asia. She has experience working with children in Poland and the Czech Republic in primary, middle and high school. She believes that bilingual education has a very positive influence on children's development. Ms. Gulsana joined BIS in 2019 and specialized in teaching ICT in primary years from summer 2022.

Head of Mathematics Department / Mathematics Teacher



Alisher Kakenov

Mr. Alisher joined BIS in 2021. His teaching experience spans Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science across the IB, A Level, IGCSE, AP and SAT – from classroom examinations to competitive university admissions. He holds a degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from Nazarbayev University. Beyond the classroom, he runs the school's olympiad programme, whose students have medalled at international mathematics and science competitions.

Mathematics & Physics Teacher



Ahmed Hashem

Mr. Hashem holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and is a Google Certified Educator. With 12 years of experience in teaching Mathematics, Physics, ICT, and programming, he is currently in his fifth year of teaching in Bishkek for IGCSE, A-levels, and IB students. He has completed numerous teaching courses at Cambridge University Press & Assessment, Oxford University Press, and the IB Organization. He has recently enhanced his pedagogical expertise by completing his Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, UK, and is currently finalizing his Master of Arts in Education from the University of Buckingham, UK. Mr Hashem joined the BIS team in summer 2024.

Mathematics & Philosophy Teacher



Toon Cavens

Mr. Cavens is originally from Belgium, where he studied Mathematics and Economics. He has also studied Philosophy in Paris, and English Literature in London. He joined BIS in August 2016 to teach Mathematics and Theory of Knowledge. Mr. Cavens hopes to instill in his students a life-long passion for learning, and to help them to develop their own ideas.

Mathematics Teacher



Nazira Abakirova

Ms. Nazira holds a degree in Economics from the Kyrgyz Russian Slavic University, where she was awarded a scholarship from the Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan for her research on economic development in Kyrgyzstan. Ms. Nazira has extensive experience tutoring mathematics to middle-school students and delivering training programs for adults. She also holds an MBA degree and an MA in Teaching, both from the American University of Central Asia. Ms. Nazira joined the BIS team in summer 2022.

Mathematics Teacher & PYP Mathematics Lead



Branka Kovacevic

Ms. Branka holds a Master's degree from the Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy at the University of Belgrade. With over 19 years of teaching experience, she has worked in a variety of educational settings, including the Business Technical College, a STEM-oriented high school in Serbia, and the IB Anglo-American School in Moscow. During her time in Moscow, she collaborated closely with the Special Educational Needs Department, supporting IB PYP learners with diverse learning profiles. She earned the ECIS Certificate in 2020, completed the SEND Diploma and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) certification in 2023, and in 2024 completed the Understanding Dyslexia Diploma, Supporting Students with Dyscalculia certification, and IB Mathematics Category 1. Ms. Branka joined the BIS team in January 2023 as a Learning Support Teacher and PYP/MYP Mathematics Teacher. She is passionate about helping students build confidence and succeed in mathematics.

Mathematics Teacher



Alexander Vargas

Mr. Alexander is an educator with a background in Chemical Engineering from the University of Cartagena, Colombia, and a strong passion for teaching mathematics. With over six years of experience, he has successfully aligned and developed math curricula and led departments. His expertise extends to Middle and High School math curriculum development (MYP and CCSS), AP Calculus & AP Precalculus instruction, teaching High School Geometry, Algebra 1 & Algebra 2, and serving as a Curriculum consultant for New Highlands University. Mr. Alexander joined the BIS team in summer 2024.

Head of Performing Arts Department / Music Teacher



Munara Korpotaeva

Ms. Munara is a pianist, she graduated from the Kyrgyz National Conservatory, where she also completed her postgraduate studies in 2015. Alongside her educational work, she is actively involved in classical and experimental music projects across Central Asia and has participated in international cultural initiatives. She is also a graduate of the Goethe-Institut's Cultural Academy for Art Managers, a recipient of the Presidential Scholarship “Altyn Shaty” and is a laureth of international competitions. Ms. Munara joined the BIS team in November 2019.

Music Teacher



Aziza Mamatnazar kyzy

Ms. Aziza studied vocal music in the Korea National University of Arts (Seoul, South Korea), Kyrgyz national conservatory (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan) and Kosygin state university (Moscow, Russia). She was a soloist at Kyrgyz national opera and ballet theatre named after A. Maldybaeva for 3 years, and is a laureate of international vocal competitions. Ms. Aziza joined the BIS team in summer 2022.

Music Teacher



Burak Savaş

Mr. Burak studied Sociology at Anadolu University before pursuing his passion for music at Müjdat Gezen Art Academy in 2012, where he studied classical guitar under Hüsrev İsfendiyaroğlu. He graduated at the top of his program. He later attended masterclasses with internationally renowned guitarists Ricardo Moyano, Carlo Domeniconi, and Pablo Márquez. In addition to his musical education, Mr. Burak studied Translation and Interpreting at Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University. His diverse academic background and dedication to music contribute to his approach to music education, combining technical development, musical understanding, and artistic expression. Mr. Burak joined the BIS team in October 2026.

Drama Teacher



Geoffrey Were

Mr. Geoffrey earned his Bachelor of Education (Arts) from the University of Nairobi and holds a teaching certification from the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) of Kenya. He has had the opportunity to teach in international schools throughout Kenya, Ethiopia, and Djibouti, where he shares his love for drama, performance, and storytelling. Over the years, he has directed a range of school musicals, such as Ebenezer, What a Knight, and Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies, among others encouraging students to tap into their creativity and build their confidence on stage. Beyond drama, Mr. Geoffrey has also taught English Language Arts at the secondary level and worked with primary students, infusing every class with energy, creativity, and genuine care. Mr. Geoffery joined the BIS team in summer 2025.

Drama Teacher



Iliya Misyurin

Mr. Iliya has been studying at the "Republic of SHKID" theater studio since 2016. In 2017, he began teaching acting to children. In 2018, he wrote the play "Leningrad" and entered Kyrgyz Russian Slavic University at the Faculty of Philosophy. He worked in various creative companies and ventures before joining the BIS team in summer 2023.

Dance & PE Teacher



Sergey Zelenovsky

Mr. Sergey graduated from Arabaeva University, then followed his passion for dance, working as a dancer from 1997, then as a dance teacher since 1998. He has worked as both dancer and dance teacher with leading groups and studios in Bishkek and spent six years in China as a Dancer and Choreographer in multiple cities. Mr. Sergey joined the BIS team in summer 2021.

Head of Visual Arts Department / Art Teacher



Moeeza Shuaib

Ms. Moeeza obtained her Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from the National College of Arts, Pakistan, and Master's in Advanced Teaching from University of the People, USA. She also showcased her artworks in various art galleries around the globe. Her unique blend of creativity and pedagogy defines her expertise. She is a licensed art educator as well as a TESOL certified teacher with over 7 years of experience in international teaching. Her lasting impact is seen in the development of well-rounded individuals prepared to make a global difference. Ms. Moeeza joined the BIS team in summer of 2023.

Art & Host Country Studies Teacher



Anna Balduk

Ms. Anna studied at the Children's Art School and graduated from the Kyrgyz State Art School in 1991 with a degree in Teaching Art. She has over 20 years' experience in teaching art to children of various ages and has encouraged wonderful art and built theatre stage sets as part of the BIS team since 2013.

Art & Host Country Studies Teacher



Aizhan Anarbek kyzy

Ms. Aizhan graduated from the art school named after S.A. Chuikov in 2017, and graduated from the Academy of Arts named after T.S. Sadykov in 2022. She draws and paints on social topics and participates in exhibitions. Ms. Aizhan joined the BIS team in summer 2022.

Art Teacher



Meder Akhmetov

Mr. Meder is a Contemporary artist, architecture experimenter, and workshop mentor with many years of experience in the artistic field. After finishing his master's degree in architecture at the Dessau Institute of Architecture Mr. Meder came back to Bishkek to become a member of a creative team of the studio MUSEUM. He is passionate about artistic practices in architecture and developing art skills in students to promote the capacities of self-expression and develop a good taste for art. He has been teaching in various creative institutions since 2010 and joined the BIS team in 2024 as an art teacher.

Art Teacher



Anjela Kozlovskaia

Ms. Anjela graduated from the Chuykov Art School in 2024. During her studies, she participated in various events and exhibitions. She considers it very important to instill a love for art in children. In addition to drawing, Miss Anjela is involved in music and sport, and in her free time, she enjoys to go out into nature. Ms. Anjela joined the BIS team in summer 2024.

Head of Science Department / Chemistry Teacher



Rahul Baldota

Mr. Rahul joined BIS in summer 2025, bringing over 15 years of international teaching experience across ICSE, CBSE, IGCSE, and IB programmes. Originally from India, he has taught in diverse countries, inspiring students to see the real-world connections in science. Rahul is passionate about hands-on, inquiry-based learning that sparks curiosity and builds confidence. Outside the classroom, he enjoys travelling, football, and creative pursuits like drama, believing learning should be inclusive, exciting, and full of discovery.

Chemistry Teacher



Colin Mackay

Mr. Colin has a Bachelor of Science Degree (Biology & Chemistry) from the University of St Andrews in Scotland. Prior to joining BIS in summer 2022, Mr Colin taught high school chemistry, biology and math in Russia for ten years, following several years teaching English for corporate managers. Prior to teaching, Mr. Colin ran his own Executive Recruitment agency in Russia, following several years in Poland and the UK, working in the financial services sector. Mr Colin joined BIS in summer 2022.

Physics Teacher



Alexander Sheyerman

Mr. Alexander holds BSc and MSc degrees from the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology. He pursued doctoral studies in experimental condensed matter physics at the University of British Columbia, where he also worked as a teaching assistant in undergraduate physics and engineering courses. He helps students develop a deep understanding of physics through conceptual thinking, experimental investigation, and mathematical reasoning. Mr. Alexander joined the BIS team in March 2023.

Biology Teacher



Christian Ycasas

Mr. Christian holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Santo Tomas – The Catholic University of the Philippines. Before joining BIS in autumn 2024, he taught for 15 years at various schools and colleges in the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, and the Russian Federation. He has also completed graduate training in biomedical research and educational administration. Mr. Christian has held academic and extracurricular leadership roles, including Head of Biology, House Mentor, and Student Activities Head. He is a strong advocate of the IB's inquiry-based learning approach and encourages students to explore and appreciate the real-world applications of biology and science.

Biology Teacher



Meerim Moldokeeva

Ms. Meerim graduated from the Middle East Technical University, where she studied Biological Sciences. She also holds a Master's Degree in Management. Meerim has been teaching IGCSE Biology for 5 years and is a dedicated and resourceful educator with a commitment to the social and academic growth and development of every child. Her aim is to develop inspiring hands-on lessons that will inspire a child's imagination and future success. Ms Meerim joined BIS in summer 2022.

Science & Biology Teacher



Janyl Namazbekova

Ms. Janyl graduated from Arabaev Kyrgyz State University as a Biology teacher, and has work as both a school teacher and research in the Agency for Geology. In this role she had an internship in the Natural Historical Museum in Oslo, Norway, to expand her knowledge and skills in paleontology, which contributed to her being part of team which discovered dinosaur fossils in Kyrgyzstan. Ms. Janyl joined BIS in August 2021.

Science Laboratory Technician & Chemistry Teacher



Asel Bekpolot kyzy

Ms. Asel holds both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Chemical Engineering from Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University. She brings extensive experience in education and laboratory management, having worked as a Chemistry Teacher and Researcher. She participated in the JASSO Scholarship Exchange at Kumamoto University in Japan, where she spent one year researching new nanomaterials. She is very excited to support and enhance the learning environment with her passion for science and commitment to safety and innovation in laboratory settings. Ms. Asel joined the BIS team in December 2024.

Head of Physical Health Education Department / Athletics Director



Zeljko Jovetic

Mr. Zeljko graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education and Sport from the University of Belgrade, and a Master's degree in Physical Education from University of Novi Sad, Serbia. He has worked as PE teacher and coach in schools and sports clubs in Serbia before working in athletics and PE teaching in an international school in the United Arab Emirates. He has school teaching licenses from both the Serbian and UAE ministries of education and is also a licensed basketball and swimming coach. Mr Zeljko joined the BIS team in August 2019.

PE Teacher



Diana Kasymova

Ms. Diana graduated from the Kyrgyz-Turkish University Manas as a physical education teacher. She currently serves as a referee for the Kyrgyzstan Basketball Federation. Diana has been a member of the national basketball team since 2014. In 2022, she joined BIS as a basketball coach, and joined the BIS team as a PE teacher in summer 2023.

PE Teacher



Anna Smirnova

Ms. Anna has both Bachelor and Master degrees from the Kyrgyz State Academy of Physical Culture and Sports as a PE teacher. She is also a basketball referee with the Federation of Basketball of the Kyrgyz Republic. Ms. Anna joined the BIS team in 2019 as a basketball coach, and as a full time PE teacher in August 2021.

PE Teacher & Outdoor Activities Leader



Christelle Van Rooyen

Ms. Stella is a seasoned educator from South Africa with 34 years of teaching experience. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Pretoria, with a focus on Biology (Zoology and Botany) and a specialization in Physical Education (PSPE). For the past 16 years, she has taught across the Middle East, including in Dubai, UAE, and in Jeddah and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, after spending 18 years teaching in South Africa. Driven by her passion for lifelong learning, Ms. Stella is dedicated to empowering both students and colleagues. She believes that every student deserves quality teaching and fair assessment. As an educator, her goal is to ignite curiosity and inspire students to explore the world with an open mind, encouraging them to think critically and creatively.

Head of English Department / Strategic Lead for Teaching Effectiveness and Innovation



Ellis Goldney Sidley

Mr. Ellis has a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy from the University of York and a Master's Degree in Education from University College London. He has previously held positions as Head of English in Romania and Deputy Director of English in the UK. Mr. Ellis joined the BIS team in summer 2026.

English Language & Literature Teacher



Kevin Snow

Mr. Kevin has an undergraduate degree from the University of Glasgow and a PGDE in Secondary English education from the University of Aberdeen. He holds UK Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), and spent several years teaching English as a foreign language in public and private schools in Russia and South Korea before joining the BIS team in summer 2024.

English Language & Literature Teacher



Anton Kunayev

Mr. Kunayev's move to Kyrgyzstan is a coming-full-circle moment — born in Soviet Kazakhstan, he grew up in New York City, attended Dartmouth College to get his Bachelor of Arts (BA) in French literature and economics and Harvard University for his Master of Arts (MA) in Eurasian studies and his Master of Education (Ed.M.). He is licensed to teach middle- and high-school English in Massachusetts, USA. Mr. Kunayev has worked at international American and IB schools in Ukraine, Bulgaria, and, most recently, France. He is happy to return to his native region to share its beauty with his 6-year-old daughter, who is starting first grade at BIS.

English Language & Literature and Business Studies Teacher



Mark Adriaans

Mr. Mark has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Afrikaans and a Higher Diploma in Education (PGCE) from the University of the Western Cape, South Africa, and is registered with the South African Council for Educators (SACE). He has more than 25 years of experience teaching English language and literature across the IB, American (AP), IGCSE and South African curricula. Before joining BIS in autumn 2026, he taught in Saudi Arabia, at Riyadh Najed School and Al Hammad Academy, and then at Emirates National School in the UAE, where he taught MYP English Language Arts in Grades 7-9. He has also coached soccer and athletics and had his Afrikaans poetry published in the collection “Losvoor”. He is also an avid outdoorsman who enjoys nature.

Head of Language Aquisition in Middle and High School



Yana Karpenko

Ms. Yana Ms. Yana is an accomplished educator with a passion for language teaching and education management. She graduated from Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University, where she completed her undergraduate degree in Linguistics in 2016. She began her teaching career as an ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher. In 2018, she earned the Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults (CELTA). She completed a Master of Arts in Teaching at the American University of Central Asia (AUCA) in 2025 and has successfully passed Cambridge DELTA Module 1, highly respected Cambridge DELTA qualification in English language teaching. Ms. Yana joined the BIS team in January 2024.

French Language Teacher



Lailo Youssoup-Akhounova

Ms. Lailo has extensive experience teaching both French and Russian languages, including at local universities, the Alliance Française and Embassies. She graduated in 1984 from the Kyrgyz National University. In addition to teaching, Ms. Lailo is also a professional translator. Ms. Lailo joined the BIS team in summer 2016.

French and Kyrgyz Language Teacher



Nurzhamal Alymova

Ms. Nurzhamal graduated from the French Department of foreign languages at the Kyrgyz National University. Since graduating with a Master's Degree, she has worked as a French teacher at the National University, with Alliance Française and with international organizations. Ms. Nurzhamal joined the BIS team in October 2019.

Spanish Language Teacher



Maria Rojas

Ms. Maria holds a Bachelor's degree in English and French from Universidad de Cartagena, Colombia, and a Master's degree in Spanish Language and Literature from the Universidad de Jaén, Spain. She has over 7 years teaching Spanish and English in International environments. Her expertise ranges from primary school, middle years, high school and upper education in institutions in Latin America and UAE. She believes that bilingual and multilingual education greatly benefit children's cognitive and cultural development. Ms. Maria is committed to student-centered, communicative teaching and fostering cross-cultural understanding in the classroom.

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.

German Language Teacher



Alvira Baisalova

Ms. Alvira graduated from the Bishkek Humanitarian University and has a diploma in teaching German language and literature and a certificate as a German translator. After graduation, she worked in Germany for a year as an Au-Pair. Then she studied in Austria at the University of Vienna. She has 7 years of teaching experience with students and schoolchildren, she also worked for several years as a guide and translator for tourists from Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Ms. Alvira joined the BIS team in summer 2023.

Mandarin Language Teacher



Saikal Alamanova

Ms. Saikal graduated from the Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University with a bachelor degree in Public Relations. She then received a scholarship from the Confucius Institute to learn Mandarin at Beihang University in Beijing, followed by a scholarship to complete her Master's degree in teaching Chinese for speakers of other languages from Tongji University in Shanghai. Ms. Saikal joined the BIS team in August 2019.

Mandarin & Russian Language Teacher



Erkeayim Zhekshenalieva

Ms. Erkeayim has a Bachelor's degree from International University of Central Asia and has diverse experience working with children within the Kyrgyz Republic. She taught Mandarin and English in an orphanage in Tokmok and taught English to students of Hong Kong Polytechnic University in Ivanovka school. She also worked in a special school in Hong Kong with children who were addicted to drugs. Ms. Erkeayim enjoys working with children as they are open to speaking their minds, being silly, and they make learning fun. She believes that the students she teaches now will one day be the people running the country. Ms. Erkeayim joined the BIS team in October 2019.

Russian Language and Literature Teacher



Indira Bekkoenova

Ms. Indira, an Honored Educator of the Kyrgyz Republic, graduated from the Kyrgyz National University, where she studied Russian philology. She also has Master of Education degree from the University of People, USA. Ms. Indira has extensive experience teaching Russian language and literature to school and university students. She joined the BIS team in 2013 and loves the warm and friendly environment of the school.

Russian Language and Literature Teacher



Nazgul Kakelova

Ms. Nazgul has a Degree in Teaching Russian Language from the Kyrgyz State National University and over 20 years teaching experience in schools in the Kyrgyz Republic. She is an "Excellence in Education of the Kyrgyz Republic" award winner. Ms. Nazgul joined BIS in August 2016 as a Russian Language Teacher.

Kyrgyz Language Teacher



Nazgul Sultakeeva

Ms. Nazgul has a Postgraduate degree in Kyrgyz Philology from Arabaev Kyrgyz State University. She has over 10 years teaching experience in universities in the Kyrgyz Republic and joined BIS in August 2017 to teach Kyrgyz language.

Kyrgyz Language Teacher



Astra Abyshbaeva

Ms. Astra holds a Bachelor's degree in Russian Language and Literature from Bishkek Humanities University and a Master's degree in Philological Education from the Institute of State Language and Culture of Kyrgyz State University. She began her career in early childhood education before teaching Kyrgyz language at Secondary School No. 27 in Bishkek. Since 1999, she has worked at I. Arabaev Kyrgyz State University, where she has served in a range of academic roles, including deputy dean, and senior lecturer. Ms. Astra joined BIS team in summer 2026.

English Language Acquisition Teacher



Sagida Satysheva

Ms. Sagida graduated from Bishkek Humanities University with a Bachelor's degree in English Philology. Ms. Sagida has experience teaching English to local students and Russian as a foreign language. She has worked in various language schools in Bishkek, gaining experience working with different age groups of students. She joined the BIS team in the summer of 2023.

English Language Acquisition Teacher



Nargiza Kydykova

Ms. Nargiza has degrees in English & Literature, and MBA from local universities. Prior to working as a teacher, Ms. Nargiza worked in projects of USAID Winrock Int., Soros Foundation Harm Reduction, and Habitat for Humanity including much travelling throughout Kyrgyzstan and abroad. Then for 10 years she was teaching English through individual lessons and online. She practices healthy lifestyle and Pilates. Ms. Nargiza finds teaching children is very rewarding, who she can share her life experience with. Joining BIS school in 2026, she is happy to be part of the BIS community.

English Language Acquisition Teacher



Aigul Sakieva

Ms. Aigul graduated from the Kyrgyz State University with a degree in English Language and Literature. She has 15 years of teaching experience in diverse educational institutions in Kyrgyzstan. Prior to embarking a teaching career, she was a part of scholarship program at Shriram Institute of Business and Information Technology School in New Delhi, 2005. Ms. Aigul also studied at Indiana University, USA, under a Fulbright scholarship in 2014-15 and has CELTA and related certificates on teaching methodology for the English language. Ms. Aigul joined the BIS team in summer 2021.

Foundations and English Language Acquisition Teacher



Nestan Zholochieva

Ms. Nestan is an enthusiastic English teacher who is completing her degree in English Linguistics at Kyrgyz National University. She began her teaching career at BSC, where she worked for four years, while also teaching at Maximum English. Throughout her career, she has gained experience working with students of different ages and language levels. Ms. Nestan enjoys creating engaging, interactive lessons that encourage students to express themselves confidently in English. She believes in making learning both enjoyable and meaningful for every student. Ms. Nestan joined the BIS team in November 2026.

Head of Language Aquisition in the Primary Years Programme



Elvira Tonueva

Ms. Elvira studied Linguistics and New Computer Technologies at Bishkek Humanities University, and also has a Masters in the Art of Teaching from the American University of Central Asia and Bard College, New York. Ms. Elvira joined BIS in summer 2017 as a Co-Teacher before specializing in language teaching in the primary years programme in recent years.

English Language Acquisition Teacher



Tinatin Stambekova

Ms. Tinatin graduated with a bachelor's degree from Tomsk State University in 2017 and followed her passion for teaching. At university, she studied linguistics, English, and Spanish languages. Over 7 years of teaching, she gained a solid grounding in English Teaching Methodology. Ms. Tinatin joined the BIS team in summer 2021.

English Language Acquisition Teacher



Aisedep Syrgakova

Ms. Aisedep graduated from Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University with a degree in International Relations with part of the course and internship completed in Turkey. She has worked as a tutor for both English and Turkish, as a language teacher for children in an education centre, and as English Teacher at a private preschool in Bishkek. Ms. Aisedep joined the BIS team in August 2019 and completed her Masters in the Art of Teaching at the American University of Central Asia in 2023.

English Language Acquisition Teacher



Leonid Raenko

Mr. Leonid graduated from the International University of Central Asia, where he studied pedagogy. He has been teaching English for children and teenagers since 2020. He always does his best to create an environment where children are fully involved at the learning process. Mr Leonid joined the BIS team in summer 2022.

English & Russian Language Acquisition Teacher



Guldana Muratalieva

Ms. Guldana graduated from Bishkek Humanities University, Faculty of European Civilization, with a degree in English Language Teaching. She later earned her Master's degree in Russian as a Foreign Language from Kyrgyz and Slavic University. Ms. Guldana joined the BIS team in summer 2021.

Russian Language Teacher



Gulgaaky Kadyrkulova

Ms. Gulgaaky has a philologist linguist diploma from the Bishkek Humanitarian University (BSU) and has teaching and research experience in several educational institutions. She is currently working on her PhD thesis on the Theory and Methodology of Teaching at BSU and is also working full time at BIS. She enjoys teaching and helping students discover their abilities and talents. Ms. Gulgaaky joined the BIS team in 2021.

Russian and Kyrgyz Language Teacher



Deniz Karybaeva

Ms. Deniz graduated from the Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University, philology faculty, as teacher of Russian language and literature. She initially worked as Russian teacher in Novo-Pokrovka school and realized that teaching is very responsible and noble as the education and upbringing of the younger generation is a huge contribution to the development of both the country and all of humanity. Ms. Deniz joined the BIS team in summer 2023.

Spanish Language Teacher



Tilek Niiazaliev

Mr. Tilek holds a Bachelor's degree in Linguistics and Intercultural Communication from Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University. During his undergraduate studies, he participated in an Erasmus Exchange Program in Córdoba, Spain. He later earned a Master's degree in Human Rights, Peace, and Sustainable Development from the University of Valencia, Spain. Tilek has prior experience teaching English, Spanish, and Italian in various language schools. Mr. Tilek joined the BIS team in 2024.

Mandarin Language Teacher / ECA Coordinator



Nazira Verger

Ms. Nazira has a Master's degree from Beijing International Business and Economics University and a Diploma from Beijing Language and Culture University. She has worked as a teacher and interpreter in China. Ms. Nazira worked at BIS for several years before moving to Uganda to teach Mandarin at an international school there. She rejoined the BIS team in summer 2021.

Librarian



Irina Pak

Ms. Irina holds a Master's Degree in Russian Language and Literature from Kyrgyz National University. With 19 years of experience in library services, she began her career at the National Library of the Kyrgyz Republic as a senior librarian. She then continued her work at the American University of Central Asia (AUCA) as an electronic service librarian. Previously, Ms. Irina served as the Executive Director of the 'Library and Information Consortium of the Kyrgyz Republic' and was the country licensing coordinator for the project 'Electronic Information for Libraries - elFL'. Ms. Irina joined BIS in 2019.

Learning Resources Explorer and Guide



Munara Ergeshbaeva

Ms. Munara has a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from the Kyrgyz–Russian Slavic University and Master's Degree in International Relations from the Saint – Petersburg State University. Ms. Munara joined the BIS team in March 2025. Before joining BIS she worked in Russia, Germany and Turkey.

Enrichment Programme for Innovative Challengers (EPIC) Coordinator



Genevieve Maser

Ms. Genevieve has voluntarily spent many years of her life in post-secondary education, simply because she loves to learn. She has 2 Bachelor's degrees and 2 Master's degrees (the first in History and the second in Gifted Education.) If she could describe herself in one word, it would be 'curious'. She understands the joy and importance of falling down a knowledge rabbit-hole. She believes that when students are advanced, they need room to explore and love what they are learning. She speaks English and French, and is stubbornly making her way towards mild proficiency in Russian. Ms. Genevieve is from Montreal, Canada and has one daughter in grade 3 here at BIS. She has previously taught at university in Canada (Dalhousie), as well as primary and secondary schools in Russia, Uzbekistan, and now Kyrgyzstan.

IB Diploma Programme Administrator & CAS Coordinator



Ainura Moldalieva

Ms. Ainura graduated from Bishkek Humanities University, where she studied World Economics. She worked for the last 10 years in several positions from travel agent to manager of Helpdesk department. Ms. Ainura joined the BIS team in October 2021.