

# Bishkek International School

## SPECIALIST TEACHING TEAM 2024/25

### Head of Individuals & Societies Department; Geography & Theory of Knowledge Explorer & Guide



**Andrew Wheeler**

**Mr Andrew** has a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies, Cross-Cultural Studies, and Peace Studies from Whitworth University, Washington State, and a teaching qualification through the University of Florida. 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 also recently completed his Masters in Anthropology at the American University in Central Asia.

### History Teacher



**Claire Berger**

**Ms Claire** is originally from Texas, USA where she received a BA and MA in International Affairs. She has lived and worked in various locales throughout Asia, Europe, and Oceania, and initially joined BIS in 2020. She rejoined the BIS team in August 2024, following a period of academic research in New Zealand and teaching in Romania, and is looking forward to inspiring critical thinking and a passion for history among students.

### Economics Teacher



**Azamat Kasymov**

**Mr Azamat** has a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the American University of Central Asia (AUCA), where he also taught undergraduate level mathematics. He is a part-time research assistant at AUCA and has helped to write several mathematics textbooks for primary through to university level mathematics. Mr Azamat joined BIS in summer 2014 is also currently completing his PhD in Economics.

### Individuals & Societies Teacher & 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 the BIS team in summer 2023.

## Individuals & Societies Teacher



### Matthew Vandewaal Valkanov

**Mr. Matthew** studied History at the Universite Libre de Bruxelles, French-English-Spanish translation at the Institut Supérieur 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.

## Host Country Studies teacher



### 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



### 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. She is very excited to be part of the BIS team and help all students be successful in their future endeavors.

## Head of Computer Science & Design



### Manas Kumar Khag

**Mr Manas** brings over 14 years of experience in Computer Science and Educational Technology to BIS. He has been an IB examiner and moderator for Computer Science and ITGS courses of the Diploma Program for more than a decade. Mr Manas has a master's degree in Computer Applications from Manipal University. He has worked as in several companies before teaching and has taught Computer Science and IT at various reputed IB and American schools in West Africa, Southeast Asia, and India. Outside the classroom, Mr Manas actively participates in professional development opportunities, ensuring that he stays at the forefront of educational trends and best practices. Mr Manas joined the BIS team in summer 2024.

## 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 & AI Innovator

### Arslan Sultanbek uulu



**Mr. Arslan** has a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Alatau 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

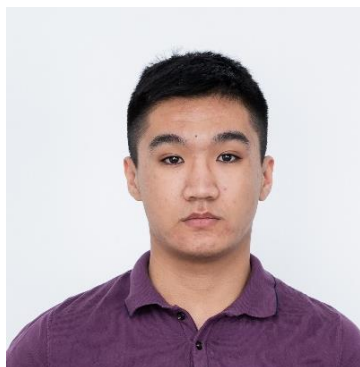
### Gulsana Niizbek kyzy



**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 Math Department; Math Teacher

### Alisher Kakenov



**Mr Alisher** has a degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan, and taught in Kazakhstan prior to joining BIS in summer 2021. Not only a keen mathematician, Alisher has also tutored High School and University students in their development of physics and chemistry understanding. Alisher is excited to support our Middle and High School students and to continue developing high standards and enjoyment of mathematics among our students.

## Math 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.

## Math 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.

## Math 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

## Math & 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. Mr Hashem has also worked as an exams officer and Cambridge coordinator. He has completed numerous teaching courses at Cambridge University Press & Assessment, Oxford University Press, and the IB Organization. He is currently pursuing his PGCE at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, UK, further enhancing his educational expertise.

## PYP Math Lead Specialist & MYP Math Teacher; LDIC 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.

## Head of Performing Arts & Music Teacher

### Munara Korpotaeva



**Ms Munara** graduated from Kyrgyz National Conservatory as a pianist. In 2015 she finished her postgraduate studies in the class of Professor Tsokurenko. Currently she is also working in the National Conservatory as a pianist. She is the prize winner of national competitions and the scholarship holder of the KR President's scholarship "Altyn Shaty". Ms Munara joined BIS in summer 2019.

## Music Teacher

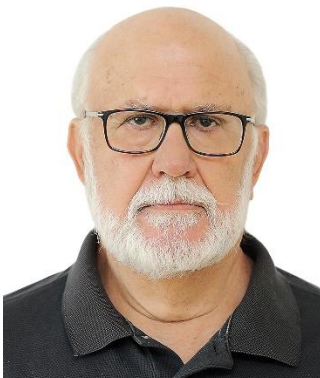
### Aziza Mamatnazar kyzy



**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. Malybaeva for 3 years, and is a laureate of international vocal competitions. Ms Aziza joined the BIS team in summer 2022.

## Drama Teacher

### Steve Wagenseller



**Mr Steve** holds a BA in Psychology, a Master's in Drama & Theatre, a Master's in Educational Technology, and has many years of teaching experience in Jamaica, Minnesota, Hawaii, Kuwait, Myanmar, and Mongolia. In his various postings, Steve has taught ELA, social studies, psychology, video production, choral music, and Defense Against the Dark Arts (a thinking skills course.) In the realm of dramatic arts, he has worked as an actor-singer, a playwright, director, and producer, in addition to teaching performance skills. His favorite hobby is writing humorous songs to entertain or inform.

## 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



### 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. In the summer of 2023, Mrs. Moeeza joined the BIS team.

## 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 Kozlovskaja

**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.

## Chemistry & Science 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.

## Biology Teacher



### Christian Ycasas

**Mr Christian** has a Bachelor of Science degree major in Biology from the University of Santo Tomas – The Catholic University of the Philippines. Prior to joining the BIS team, he has taught for 15 years in different schools and some college in The Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia and the Russian Federation. He has also undergone graduate training in biomedical research and educational administration. He was given an academic leadership role as Head of Biology, and extracurricular leadership roles such as House Mentor and Student Activities Head. Mr. Christian fully subscribes to the inquiry-based learning of the IB, and encourages his students to fully immerse and eventually appreciate the applications of biology or science to our lives. Mr. Christian joined the BIS team in autumn of 2024.

## Biology & Science 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 Arbaev 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.

## Physics Teacher



### Alexander Sheyman

**Mr Alexander** is a graduate of Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology. He had been doing experimental research in Condensed Matter Physics for the last 10 years. During his doctoral studies at the University of British Columbia he was teaching undergraduate Physics and Engineering courses. In teaching Alexander emphasizes experimental nature of Sciences and focuses on the development of research skills. Alexander joined the BIS team in March 2023.



## Physics & Math 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. Mr Hashem has also worked as an exams officer and Cambridge coordinator. He has completed numerous teaching courses at Cambridge University Press & Assessment, Oxford University Press, and the IB Organization. He is currently pursuing his PGCE at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, UK, further enhancing his educational expertise.

## Science Laboratory Technician; Science Teacher



### Aisuluu Asanova

**Ms Aisuluu** has a degree in Engineering from the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University. She has experience as a laboratory technician, researcher and working with university students. As a teacher Ms Aisuluu encourages and leads students to develop independent working skills. Ms Aisuluu joined the BIS team in August 2022.

## Head of Physical Health Education; 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



### 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.

## 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.

## Head of English Department; English Language and Literature & Theory of Knowledge Teacher



### Jan Scott

**Mr Jan** has a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Russian from the University of Florida and has taught in both universities and language schools before joining the BIS team in August 2018. Mr Jan became Head of the English Department in summer 2021, teaching English and Theory of Knowledge in the IB Diploma Programme, and leading English teaching throughout the school.

## English Language and 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 August 2024.

## English Language and Literature Teacher



### Stephen Labanowich

Mr Stephen holds a Master's degree in Education from Niagara University (Lewiston, NY) and a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Trent University (Peterborough, Ontario). He is a member of the Ontario College of Teachers and a JET Program alumnus (2016-2022). Before joining BIS in January of 2023, Stephen was teaching English in Japan and Korea.

## English Language and Literature Teacher; Individuals & Societies Teacher



### Aaron Odum

**Mr. Aaron** holds a Bachelor of Arts in Homeland Security and Emergency Management and a Master's degree in Development Practice from Emory University. With extensive experience teaching English, Sociology, and Global Perspectives in Bishkek, he joined the BIS team in August 2024. Mr. Aaron is dedicated to fostering critical thinking and global awareness in his students, drawing on his field research and community development expertise from his work at the American University of Central Asia and Bio KG Organic Movement Federations.

## English Language Acquisition Coordinator for Middle/High School, ELA Teacher



### Yana Karpenko

**Ms Yana** is an accomplished educator passionate about language teaching and education management. She graduated from Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University, where she completed her undergraduate degree in linguistics in 2016. After obtaining her degree, Ms Yana began teaching, initially working as an ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher at a local language school. In 2018 she received the Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults (CELTA), and is currently completing a Masters in the Art of Teaching at the American University of Central Asia. Ms Yana joined the BIS team in January 2024.

## English Language Acquisition Teacher in Middle/High School



### 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.

## English & Russian Language Acquisition Teacher in Middle/High School



### 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 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 of Language Acquisition Coordinator in the PYP, ELA Teacher



### 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 in the PYP



### 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 BIS in summer 2021.

## English Language Acquisition Teacher in the PYP



### 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, Kyrgyz & Russian Language Acquisition Teacher in the PYP



### 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 BIS in August 2019 and completed her Masters in the Art of Teaching at the American University of Central Asia in 2023.

## Head of Language Acquisition, Spanish Teacher



### Marta Pascual Garcia

**Ms Marta** obtained a teaching degree in the UK in 2009 and has taught Spanish for more than 18 years in both primary and secondary school settings in the UK and New Zealand. She was responsible for developing the Spanish curriculum in her role as Head of the Modern Foreign Languages department in her previous teaching position in London. She gained TEFL qualification in 2021. She loves travelling and cooking, and has run after-school clubs teaching Spanish cinema, cooking and literature. Ms Marta joined BIS in summer 2022, and oversees all language acquisition throughout the school.

## 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, Kyrgyz and Russian 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 in the PYP

### Dixy Cardenas Beyra



**Ms Dixy** graduated from Central University "Marta Abreu" of Las Villas in Cuba and studied at the Pontifical University of Comillas. She then attended the Cristóbal Colón University in Mexico to learn how to work with children with disabilities. She then worked as a teacher in Cuba applying interactive, dynamic classes and providing personalized attention to students with specialized learning needs, while also teaching Spanish to small groups both online and in-person. Ms. Dixy moved Bishkek with her family in 2022 and joined the BIS team as a teacher in January 2024.

## Spanish Language Teacher & LDI Specialist

### Marc Garreta



**Mr Marc** graduated as a psychologist in the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain and also holds a Masters degree in Learning Difficulties and Disorders from Universitat Oberta de Catalunya. Mr. Marc has a wide variety of teaching experience in Spain, Indonesia and Kyrgyzstan. Mr Marc loves teaching his own language as well as working with schools to make them as inclusive as possible. 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 and 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.

## 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.

## Russian Language and Literature Teacher



### Indira Bekkoenova

**Ms Indira** 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.

## 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.

## Russian and Kyrgyz Language and Literature 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 Language and Literature 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.

## 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.

## 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 - eIFL'. Ms Irina joined BIS in 2019.



## Learning Resources Explorer and Guide



### Chynara Kanzamanova

**Ms Chynara** graduated from Kyrgyz-Uzbek University in Osh with a degree in International Relations in 2008. She has pursued courses in accounting, graphic design, and content management, enhancing her skills and knowledge. Ms Chynara has seven years of experience in public and international organizations. Ms Chynara joined the BIS team in May 2024 as a Learning Resources Explorer and Guide. She applies her knowledge and skills in library science for the benefit of students.

## 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. She is very excited to be part of the BIS team and help all students be successful in their future endeavors. Ms Lané joined the BIS team in summer 2024.

## High School Counselor & University Counselor



### Valeria Totolina

**Ms Valeria** graduated from the American University of Central Asia with a Master's 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.

## 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.