

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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Message from Dr.Bang

Dear Alumni,
In 2017, we will celebrate 25 years since the founding of KIMEP University, a momentous occasion not only in the history of the university, but in the history of an independent Kazakhstan. As we prepare for this major milestone, I would like to take a moment to reflect on some of our most outstanding accomplishments throughout the years.

As the first English-language University in the CIS, KIMEP was established with a unique vision to create a culture based on meticulous care for the well-being of our students. The founding principles are transparency, integrity, and zero tolerance to corruption. All KIMEP's efforts are founded on this vision and by rigorously safeguarding it, the university has earned an outstanding reputation in Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

Quality education has always been at the heart of this university. Attracting exceptional faculty from a wide range of fields spanning more than 27 countries, KIMEP has set the standard for educational excellence early on and continues to be the industry benchmark both locally and internationally. To maintain academic excellence, KIMEP supports, celebrates and rewards outstanding teaching and scholarship. A priority is being placed upon improving faculty salaries to strengthen retention of current faculty and to enhance KIMEP University's ability to attract new qualified and reputable faculty. Despite external economic challenges, KIMEP University increased international faculty salaries including fringe benefits to, on average 37% for the 2016-2017 academic year. For the following year, we are projecting an across-the-board salary increment of 25% staying true to our commitment to offer compensation packages competitive to western universities.

From 1994 to 2016, KIMEP University produced more than 11,000 highly qualified graduates. With strong employer relationships, KIMEP maintains the best record in the country for employment of its graduates with 95% of our graduates finding gainful employment within six months of graduation. From employers' perspective, KIMEP University enjoys a high satisfaction regarding placements. During their studies, KIMEP University students gain meaningful employment and leadership experience preparing them for success in the job market. Therefore, many multinational companies, such as AirAstana, Deloitte, Ernst & Young, KPMG, Mars and PWC almost exclusively recruit KIMEP graduates.

KIMEP University is also proud of the active role that students play in the decision-making process. Students are represented in all key committees, and the university's administration regularly consults with the KIMEP Student Association, which serves as the elected student government.

During the anniversary year, KIMEP University has started two important initiatives to further improve the quality of education and the well-being of students on campus. The first major step to achieving that is an ambitious global recruiting effort KIMEP initiated this year to fill more than 20 faculty positions. Advertising vacancies in Tier-1 media, such as The Economist and The Guardian, as well as top recruiting websites for academics KIMEP University has devoted substantial resources to ensure highest quality of education. The second step is a large-scale renovation of campus facilities. This will include a full renovation of the Great Hall, restoration of the exterior and interior facades, and improvements to create more usable green space at the heart of the campus.

Many departments and teams at the University together with student leaders are involved in the preparation of the 25th anniversary celebration for all alumni and their families, students, faculty, staff, and friends of KIMEP. I hope that many of you – no matter where you are in the world – will use this momentous occasion to renew your connections with this University and return to our beautiful campus.

Many of you stay connected with KIMEP University through the friendships you've made. You also give back to our community in meaningful ways – from providing scholarship opportunities to students in need to making a difference by teaching at your alma mater. It is precisely this sincere dedication to lifelong learning and growth that makes KIMEP graduates and KIMEP University a shining example for Kazakhstan, Central Asia, and indeed the world.

Building on the dedication of KIMEP alumni, in this issue of the Alumni Magazine we have collected stories of your impact on the University honoring your multiple contributions to our great community.

I hope you will be inspired by the stories in this anniversary issue. I look forward to seeing many of you during the anniversary events to celebrate the legacy we have built together.

Yours sincerely,
Chan Young Bang, Ph.D.

UNIVERSITY NEWS AND EVENTS

News from BCB

BCB started fall 2016 semester with a new dean, Dr. Sang Hoon Lee (Professor of Finance), who replaced the former dean, Dr. Ha Jin Hwang who took one-year leave of absence at the end of spring 2016. Dr. Lee previously served BCB twice as Dean, during 2007-10 and 2012-13.

BCB's student registration statistics showed a continuous growth trend following the growth trend of two consecutive semesters from the last fall 2015 and spring 2016. Although the current economic conditions are not favorable for attracting new students, BCB proved again its superior quality that its business education is still the most relevant and favored by both students and employers.

To provide our students more skills for good business judgment, BCB plans to reinforce its "Practice-based" business education from fall 2016 by incorporating more industry inputs and experimental learning mode into its curriculum.

BCB produced two additional DBAs (Doctor of Business Administration) in fall 2016, Dr. Olga Pak and Dr. Maya Katenova, both finance majors. In spring 2016, BCB produced two Accounting DBAs, Dr. Rashid Makarov and Dr. Nulan Orazalin. Both Olga and Maya investigated issues in banking industry for their dissertations, and successfully defended their doctoral thesis at the end of the summer session. With the doctoral degrees on hand, they will be promoted to Assistant Professors of Finance from spring 2017.

In September 2016, BCB was visited by Dr. Yamaguchi from Yamagata University in Japan for research cooperation with BCB faculty. BCB held a discussion with him for further improvement of the relationship including student and faculty exchanges. In early October, a group of delegates from Penn State University visited KIMEP, and BCB engaged in a discussion with the U.S. university on the development of international relations and research cooperation.

BCB along with CSS will install Bloomberg terminals for business and economics students to experiment a stock-trading system and access to financial and economic data and information for their research and study. This type of technology adaptation will help our students to improve their necessary job skills and secure quality jobs.

BCB will continue and improve its relationships with external organizations such as ACCA, ICAEW, CMA, CFA, and other professional institutions to help our students in passing professional exams and promote KIMEP's image in international circle.

News from Language Centre

LC Director Dr. Juldyz Smagulova and Dr. Elise Ahn launched a book "Language change in Central Asia"

Twenty years after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan are still undergoing numerous transitions. This book examines various language issues in relation to current discussions about national identity, education, and changing notions of socio-cultural capital in Central Asia.

New faculty

Askhat Tleuov, MA in TESOL

PhD candidate at the University of Bath with a specialization in teacher cognition and language education. As a scholar, he is interested in teacher knowledge and beliefs, the experiential and educational sources which inform them, and the contextual factors impinging on teachers' practices

Dina Kucherbayeva, MSc in Linguistics

- Enthusiastic and dedicated with excellent analytical abilities;
- Quick grasp new ideas and concepts;
- Logical approach to challenges to meet deadlines;
- Good team-player and able to work on own initiative

Assel Koldassova, MA in TESOL

Assel Koldassova is an English language lecturer who is dedicated to working with university students. Her passion is to help learners improve language skills through using different teaching methods. Assel's current goal of becoming a more qualified teacher has certainly opened up new opportunities to build skills in this area.

Dr. Konstantinos Kristofer Dimitriou (PhD in Education)

Konstantinos (PhD - University of Bath), who is of Canadian origin, has been an Academic English tutor for 15 years, having taught in 3 countries, to students from over 115 nations. Being a speaker of four languages has helped Konstantinos in understanding students' processes of appropriating academic literacy in a foreign language. Konstantinos has found that academic literacy is most crucially experienced by students through institutional plagiarism rules & their tutors' writing feedback. It has been a goal of Konstantinos's work to break down the barriers to student literacy, for students & tutors, by examining the tacit academic culture that is implicit in the genre (& teaching) of a discipline, through the use of concepts from the Communities of Practice model.

MA TESOL Program by Dinara Karimova, MA TESOL 2014

In 2014, I graduated from KIMEP University with a MAFL diploma. This program has definitely influenced my professional life in many positive ways! First, I learned more about different theoretical and practical aspects of teaching and learning English as a foreign language from the enthusiastic faculty members with multicultural backgrounds. Second, I reviewed many research studies in the field of applied linguistics and TESOL education that actually challenged my previous educational assumptions but equipped me with new knowledge and practices in today's English language education. Then, I learned how to undertake my own research projects. As a result, I produced a few papers that were then presented at local and regional conferences; one of them was published in an international peer-reviewed journal. Moreover, since all instruction is conducted in English by both local and foreign professors, I did improve my English language skills. Finally, this program helped me to make the next step in my professional career: to enroll in an interesting



doctoral program to further develop myself as an educator and researcher. So I am currently pursuing a postgraduate degree in the English language and culture at the University of Eastern Finland, and truly enjoying my new cultural, educational and social experiences!

English Club

Princeton in Asia Fellows are successfully conducting English Club ! This summer has been the first time of conducting English Camp for schoolchildren. Schoolchildren had opportunity to develop language skills through English classes; develop artistic creativity through a comic-making workshop; practice public speaking and self-expression through the production of a theatrical play. The camp was co-led by highly trained professional local teachers and three enthusiastic fellows from Princeton in Asia program.

Nina: After just one month in Almaty, I feel like I've already fallen in love with the city. The city is beautiful, people are incredibly friendly, and my co-workers and students are wonderful. I feel so lucky to be a part of such a creative and intellectually stimulating university. I look forward to learning more about Kazakh culture and learning how to cook Laghman over my next year of living here!

Reed: I've loved my time here in Almaty. It's a vibrant, exciting city, and the people have been very welcoming. KIMEP is a wonderful community, and it's been a pleasure to get to know my students and watch them learn. I feel like I've already learned so much in the short time I've been here, and I can't wait to explore Kazakhstan more

Samuel: I've only been here 38 days, to be exact, but Almaty already feels like home. KIMEP is a wonderful school with students that are creative, pragmatic and motivated, and faculty members that are astonishingly intellectual and thoughtful. The school is fortunate to be situated in such a beautiful area. I'm an avid skier, so I plan to spend all my winter weekends exploring Shymbulak, Ak Bulak, and Soldatskoe.

Robin: I have been in Kazakhstan for a year now and I love it, which is why I decided to stay for a second year at KIMEP. I continue to be impressed by the kindness and hospitality that I have been shown by my colleagues, students, and even strangers. This coming year, I hope to explore more of Kazakhstan outside of Almaty and also to improve my Russian and Kazakh!



The Golden Standard in International Taxation

Executive Education Center (EEC) at KIMEP University presents “KIMEP Certificate in Taxation” Program combined with Advanced Diploma in International Taxation (ADIT)

overseen by Chartered Institute of Taxation – UK professional body, which is the only international tax qualification available today.

KIMEP Certificate in Taxation Program Benefits

- **Update** your knowledge and skills in the area of International Taxation in a short time;
- **Identify** the problems related to international taxation as well as develop comprehensive solutions;
- **Analyze** the relevance of anti-avoidance provisions as well as the General Anti-Avoidance Rules and determine the implications on business operations of Multinational Enterprises;
- **Justify** the purpose of government regulations such as taxes and tariffs and clarify the way it affects Multinational Enterprises' tax obligations and tax planning strategies;
- **Analyze** real business cases, identify issues and design constructive detailed solutions;
- **Break down and carry out** benchmarking of Kazakhstan's Legislation, International Tax Treaties, and Foreign Tax Legislation in the areas relevant to the Multinational Enterprises;
- **Comprehend** the tax planning opportunities for Multinational Enterprises;
- **Develop** a professional network of Kazakhstani colleagues;
- **Use** KIMEP University library resources.

For whom this program is?

The program is offered to professionals in Taxation:

- Accountants,
- Corporate Tax Managers,
- Tax Preparers,
- Attorneys,
- Financial Advisors,
- Government and Nonprofit Financial Professionals,
- 4th year Students
- Others who have good technical skills and/or are interested in pursuing a course of study in taxation.

Employers

ADIT provides an ideal way of benchmarking the international tax expertise of employees within your team or organisation, providing colleagues across the globe with a common international tax standard.

By encouraging ADIT as part of its learning and development, program your company will ensure that staff who deal in international tax are aware of the latest technical developments, and equipped to advise clients in multiple jurisdictions, across a range of cross-border taxation topics.

Program

The KIMEP Certificate in Taxation is offered as a series of 3 courses provided in executive format and covering the following ADIT papers (with the appropriate preparatory courses in brackets):

ADIT

Paper 2 – Thesis option

Paper 3.03 - Transfer Pricing option

or Paper 3.04 – Upstream Oil and Gas option

EEC

Tax Law in Kazakhstan

Taxation of Multinational Enterprises

or Upstream Oil and Gas option

Bonus for participants of the Course:

Before the ADIT exam, an intensive 1 day free of charge revision will be organised for each paper, where participants can exam technique, review and exercise jointly with an instructor on past exam questions

Duration of the course:

1 course = 45 academic hours or 6 contact days

Course Instructor – ADIT holders, Experts and practitioners in International Taxation

Language – English

Regular price for the course

KZT 248 160 (VAT included)

Discounts

- For KIMEP University students and alumni - special price is KZT 223 344;
- Corporate clients with 5 and more employees – 10% is KZT 223 344.

For more information, please, contact
bcb@kimep.kz
at +7 (727) 270 44 63

EMBA Program:

The twelve modules of the KIMEP EMBA immerse our high profile students in the values we believe will characterize future success for individuals, organizations, and nations: tolerance, flexibility, entrepreneurship, and breadth of understanding. Participants who come to KIMEP EMBA find themselves in the flourishing atmosphere of debating and discussing ideas with others - and then they go out and make an impact.

“As a head of the Executive Education Center and an Executive MBA program, it is my pleasure to introduce you to our program. Our team is committed to providing you with the educational experience of a lifetime. As you develop your potential as a top executive over 12 months in the Executive MBA program, you will be equipped with the qualities necessary for future business leadership.

Our unique program yields incredible benefits. Classroom learning experiences are designed to transfer immediately, helping you resolve current workplace challenges and preparing you for greater responsibility within your organization. Our team-based learning approach emphasizes an advanced understanding of strategy, leadership and management to ensure maximum returns on your educational investment. The executive facility of the Executive Education Center provides an interactive and comfortable learning environment, where you will be able to forge a network of friends and colleagues which will remain with you for your entire career.

Although success in our program demands commitment and motivation, you will emerge a stronger and more capable leader. You will also gain a nationally recognized EMBA degree that can make the difference between success and failure in an increasingly competitive world.

For over 20 years we have prepared dedicated executives for unparalleled success in the world of business. Among successful EMBA individual graduates, we also can name successful corporate groups of AY 2015-16 such as Ministry of Defense Cohort, KarazhanbasMunai Cohort, Aktau Sea Port Management participants, KazMinerals Cohort. Now, it's your turn! We invite you to explore our program and see if it is right for you together with the brand new Almaty Cohort E09” Dr. Bulent Dumlupinar (Associate Dean of BCB for EEC)

The KIMEP Executive MBA is a 12-month week-end modular program designed to help senior professionals realize their leadership potential, whilst delivering new ideas, energy and understanding to their organizations. Today this Program is:

- The first EMBA program of the Western-style in Kazakhstan;
- A holder of 4 prestigious accreditations (AQAAA, FIBAA, AFBE, HKAOKO);
- Master's degree from a leading business school in Kazakhstan and Central Asia;
- Gives out 2 diplomas to graduates: a state-recognized diploma and KIMEP University, Western-style Diploma; European Diploma Supplement;
- Taught by experienced Western faculty and industry experts of the Kazakhstani market;
- Education in 3 languages (English, Russian and with the translation into Kazakh language);
 - On-site in companies and in various regions;
 - More than 10 specializations;
 - Foreign modules in 110 foreign partner-universities of KIMEP University;
 - Close ties with industrial corporations (MNC & Giants of Kazakhstani market).
 - Ranked no.1 in the Republic in the National Rank of the best Humanitarian-Economics HEIs in Kazakhstan in 2016 (<http://nkaoko.kz/rejting-vusov/2016-07-11-15-21-27/natsionalnyj-rejting-luchshikh-gumanitarno-economiceskikh-vuzov-kazakhstana>).
 - In the list of Top 200 best EMBA Programs worldwide (according to the International Scientific Committee of Eduniversal);
 - Runs year round; flexible schedule; best western practices with international and local cases. ▶▶



- Each pair-module runs from 9am Saturday morning to Sunday evening every 6 week-ends, with continuous e-learning between modules.

A key question you may be asking is why to choose an Executive MBA. Business today requires that you not only have the vision of leadership, but the pragmatic ability to accomplish work in demanding and diverse team environments. Any business leader needs a clear vision and a system in his/her head which could be implemented in any business model. Decisions become more structured. Personal and professional growth takes you to the next level. All of this is EMBA.

Our demanding program is designed to bring a balanced perspective of both principles and practice to the classroom. Whether it is study time between classes and speakers or learning from the great experiences of your fellow class-mates, the total experience of an MBA is critical to your learning success - an experience with which we take great pride.

Without a doubt, we live and work in a global economy. We incorporate global learning through an international teaching experience. It is a major component of your degree which starts well before you set foot on the program.

Networking and learning opportunities abound, not just with the program's highly respected faculty and accomplished alumni, but also with fellow students. So, whether you're an executive seeking an MBA to reach the final rung on your career ladder, an entrepreneur looking for better business knowledge, or a quickly rising corporate star, you'll gain lifelong benefits from the EMBA program at the KIMEP University.

Welcome aboard to the KIMEP University EMBA Program!

Leadership Development Program

The KIMEP Leadership Development Program (LDP) was initiated by the President of KIMEP University in 2010, as part of an innovative curriculum redesign, putting a greater emphasis on personal leadership awareness and skills development.

During the course of Leadership Development Program, guest lecturers are invited to come into the classroom and speak with the students. Each week these lecturers provide students with the opportunity to see how the issues they learn about in class can be applied in the real world. The guest speakers become Members of the KIMEP Leaders Forum. This membership allows not only sharing expertise but also developing practical business solutions together with KIMEP students.

The Program already featured the speakers from such companies as Kazyna Capital Management, Kaztransoil, Centras, KEGOC, IWEP, PWC, the Boston Consulting Group, Kazkommertsbank, Eurasia Foundation, KPMG, Deloitte, Ernst&Young, JTI, Proctor&Gamble, Microsoft, Nokia, HSBC, Toyota, Al Hilal Bank, Kaspi Bank, CitiBank, Sayat Zholshy Partners, International Finance Corporation, GOOGLE, Mars, Nestle, Philip Morris, Halyk Bank, Ramstore, Esentai Mall and many others.

LDP in numbers:

400 Guest Speakers

About 1 000 students participated in the Program.

If you or the company you work in are interested in participating, please, contact bcb@kimep.kz at +7 (727) 270 44 63





News from the Department of Marketing, Communications and PR (MCPR)

MCPR aspiration for excellence

The Department of Marketing, Communications and PR presented new branding standards of KIMEP University in fall 2016. The integral part of KIMEP branding strategy is to drive integrated marketing approach through a variety of channels: public relations, social media, outdoor communication, schools, partners' offices, KIMEP campus and so on.

KIMEP brand is an important asset to the students, trustees, faculty, staff, volunteers, alumni and supporters of KIMEP University. The goal is to communicate KIMEP brand by presenting a consistent graphic and editorial identity. All the incorporated colors of the brand image are used in no vain, but to express University intrinsic values via the elaborated color range.

As a dynamically developing University, KIMEP is trying to ensure that the high quality standards and innovations in the teaching processes are secured and presented as our ample priorities. In the upcoming year, MCPR is planning to promote the KIMEP University's mission even further and starting the celebration of the 25th anniversary in 2017. The highlighted key values in education set us apart from all other Universities in the region and we believe that the high educational standards accompanied by the effective marketing strategies are a key to ensuring students' success and pride.



News from Department of International Academic Mobility. Internationalization of Education

The Department of International Academic Mobility (DIAM) initiates and administers partnerships with universities and other organizations both abroad and within Kazakhstan.

As of today KIMEP University has 160 partnerships that cover cooperative activities in the sphere of academic mobility, summer programs, research, dual degrees, information and experience exchange.

In 2015-2016 the large international family of the University expanded to 15 new universities and 2 international organizations – all this for the purpose of mobility programs, trainings, research and experience exchange between students, faculty and staff.

Among those partners 12 European universities have established direct partnerships with KIMEP University under Erasmus + Program funded by European Union. Such agreements set up strategic sustainable partnerships with such universities as Thomas Bata University, Zlin (Czech Republic), Tartu University (Estonia), National University of Public Affairs (Hungary), Iceland University (Iceland), Lichtenstein University (Lichtenstein), University of Las Palmas De Gran Canaria (Spain), Lund University (Sweden) and others with mutual exchange taking place for 1-2 semesters for students and for 7-14 days for faculty and staff.

In 2015-16 about 260 students went abroad through external mobility program for study periods of 2-4 weeks to 2 semesters to 21 country, including Denmark, Austria, Bulgaria, UK, Hungary, Hong Kong, Spain, Italy, China, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, France, Croatia, Czech Republic, Sweden, Estonia. Many students received grants both from Erasmus+ Program and directly from our partners.

67 students from partner universities studied in KIMEP through external and internal academic mobility from Kazakhstan and 16 countries, such as Korea, Austria, Azerbaijan, UK, Germany, Hong Kong, Spain, China, Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Slovakia, Turkey, France.

For the third year in a row already on 2015-16 KIMEP University becomes a platform for hosting a long-term program – the first module of Executive MBA program in Development of Policies and Practices, IHEID with Geneva Institute of Graduate Studies, Switzerland. The program is administered jointly by faculty members from Geneva and KIMEP for participants from CIS countries, thus making a valuable contribution into development of human potential of those countries and of Kazakhstan itself.

Short-term programs for 25 students of Singapore National University and for 15 students of Hong Kong College of Technologies also contributed to dynamism of summer programs on campus.

16 faculty and staff members went abroad to read lectures, conduct research and share experience in such universities as Neubrandenburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany), University of Las Palmas De Gran Canaria (Spain), Tartu University (Estonia), Varna University (Bulgaria), Ljubljana University (Slovenia), Ferrara University (Italy), Madison University (USA), Uppsala University (Sweden). Many of them obtained mobility scholarships through Erasmus+ Program.

3 professors from Lund University (Sweden), Deusto University (Spain) and from Uppsala University (Sweden) spent up to 3 weeks in KIMEP University through academic mobility, giving guest lectures in International Relations program and teaching English.

Starting with several participants back in 2002, in AY 2015-16 already KIMEP had 386 international students out of the total number of 2872 people of student population. KIMEP has established active partnerships with more than 80 universities globally and 30 of them are included into the list of world's top universities in 2015. Just several names may serve as examples of this: Seoul National University (Korea), Graz University (Austria), Strasbourg University (France), Amsterdam University (Netherlands), Lund University (Sweden), Humboldt University (Germany) Hong Kong Baptist University (China), Yonsei University (Korea) Bilkent University (Turkey), Glasgow University (UK), Lausanne University (Switzerland).

In AY 2015-2016 we developed a dual degree MBA program with ESC School of Business of Rennes, France. So, today KIMEP University offers 14 dual degree undergraduate and graduate programs with 9 partner universities. In AY 2015-16 KIMEP hosted 4 graduate students from Glasgow University, who studied under the dual degree program in International Relations. One graduate student from KIMEP went to Humboldt University, Germany, under a dual degree program in Economics.

Program title
1. Master of Business Administration (KIMEP University) + Master of International Business (IESEG School of Management of Catholic University, Lille, France)
2. BSc in Accounting and Audit (KIMEP University) + Bachelor of Business Administration (IESEG School of Management of Catholic University, Lille, France)
3. Master of Business Administration (KIMEP University) + Master of International Finance and Accounting or Master of Trade, Energy and Finance (Cass Business School, London City University, UK)
4. Master of Business Administration (KIMEP University) + Master of Trade, Energy and Finance (Cass Business School, London City University, UK)
5. Master of Arts in Economics (KIMEP University) + Master of Economics and Management (Humboldt University, Germany)
6. Master of International Relations (KIMEP University) + International Masters of Russian, Central and Eastern European Studies (Glasgow University, UK)
7. Master of International Relations (KIMEP University) + Master of International Relations and Politics (Yonsei University, Korea)
8. Master of International Relations (KIMEP University) + Master of Arts in Korean Studies (Yonsei University, Korea)
9. Master of International Relations (KIMEP University) + Master of International Economics and Strategy (Yonsei University, Korea)
10. Master of International Law (KIMEP University) + Master of International Law (Dundee University, UK)
11. Master of Public and Municipal Administration (KIMEP University) + Master of Public Administration (Swiss Higher School of Public Administration, Lausanne University, Switzerland)
12. Bachelor of Arts in Economics (KIMEP University) + Bachelor of Arts in Economics (Essex University, UK)
13. Bachelor of Arts in Economics (KIMEP University) + Bachelor of Managerial Economics (Essex University, UK)
14. Bachelor of Business Administration and Accounting / Bachelor of Management (KIMEP University) + Bachelor of European and French Management (EM Business School, Strasbourg University, France)
15. Master of Business Administration (KIMEP University) + Master of International Management, major in marketing / digital marketing / finance / human resources / innovations management / procurement (ESC Business School, Rennes, France)

Since its inception KIMEP University was always famous for the practice of inviting faculty members for long-term work. As of today KIMEP is a home for 39 international faculty members from 17 countries of the world, who obtained their terminal degrees in such prestigious Western universities as Stanford University (USA), Manchester University (UK), Oakland University of Technology (New Zealand), New York State University in Buffalo (USA), Texas M&T University (USA).

Our international student life is no less interesting than our academic mobility, since DIAM dedicates its

efforts, time and intellect to make life of international students on campus and outside of it even more vibrant and exciting, to make them remember their stay in KIMEP and Almaty as bright, ad joyful period of their student life, rich with various events, meetings, country days, birthday celebrations, tours and travels within the country and throughout Central Asia, not to let them be bored even for a single day. This all is combined with daily meticulous care for well-being, safety and health of our dear international students.

We invite everybody to visit our web page:
<http://www.kimep.kz/international/en/>

Office of Quality Assurance and Institutional Research:

KIMEP UNIVERSITY ALUMNI OF 2006-2015 EMPLOYMENT HIGHLIGHTS

On the eve of KIMEP University's 25th anniversary we would like to present for your kind attention KIMEP alumni employment highlights for the period of 2006-2015.

KIMEP University is committed to working towards rigorous systems, policies and procedures that ensure delivery of a high quality education for students, and maintains graduate employment rate through networking with main employers. To implement this, it puts in place measures to continually assess and evaluate its performance, through an independent corporate unit - Office of Quality Assurance and Institutional Research (QAIR).

QAIR carries out surveys and reviews of KIMEP University's activities and provides detailed analyses for senior management, individual departments and other interested parties. Working in partnership with the academic colleges, schools, centers and administrative departments, QAIR ensures that KIMEP University offers high quality services to its students. As such KIMEP students are surveyed on a rotating basis at their each major milestone:



The feedbacks are captured on quality of teaching, learning experience, level of satisfaction with academic and non-academic services provided by the University. So, one of such tools of monitoring the quality of services is KIMEP Alumni Survey.

KIMEP Alumni Survey is conducted each summer one year after students' graduation. It collects data on alumni employment outcomes, level of satisfaction with the quality of education and serves as valuable source for university-wide and program-based improvements.

Survey history

In 2004, QAIR for the first time conducted KIMEP Alumni Survey among the graduates of academic years 1994-2003. It was agreed that KIMEP would survey classes of 1994-2003 as one bunch due to the relatively young age of the University and the relatively modest number of alumni.

Since 2005, it was decided that the survey would be conducted annually on a regular basis.

Questionnaire

The KIMEP Alumni Survey questionnaire was compiled drawing on examples from several North American Universities under supervision of Dr. Simon Tai, chair of finance department, who had extensive previous experience in conducting alumni surveys in the USA. The questionnaire consisted of four sections covering personal and employment information, program effectiveness and alma mater relations.

Since then the questionnaire underwent only slight changes keeping its main focus on employment, quality of education and involvement with KIMEP University.

Alumni of 2006-2015 Survey results

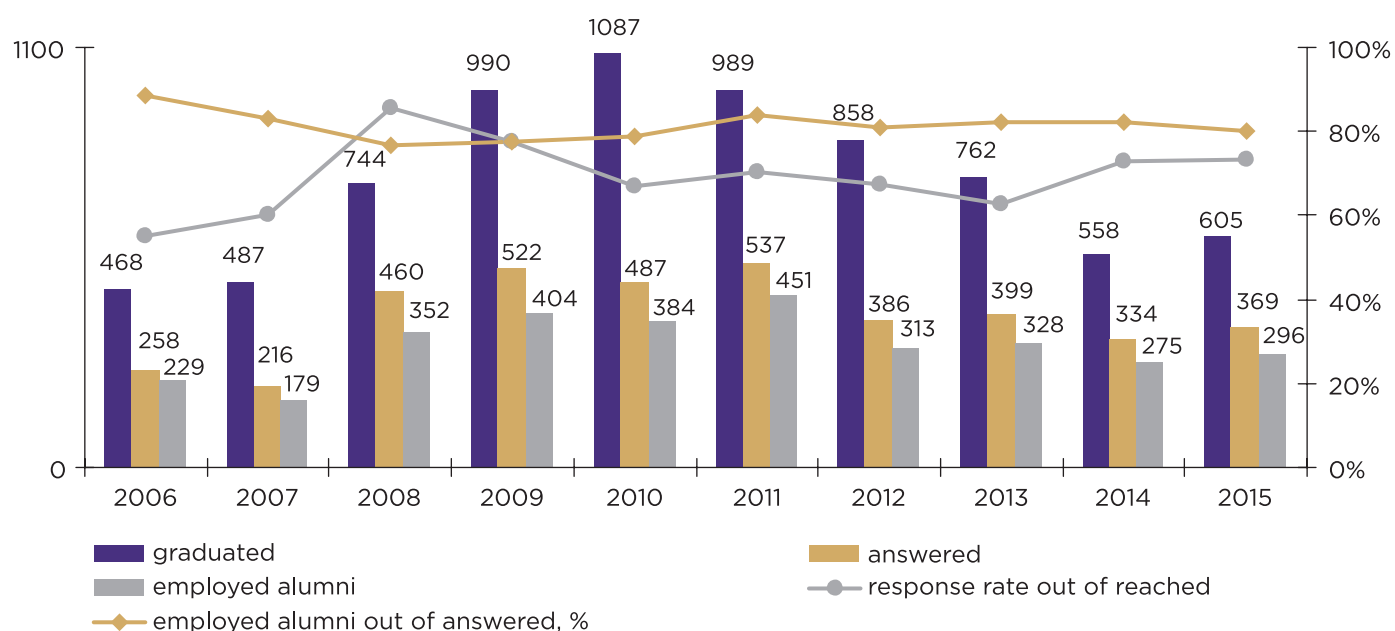
KIMEP alumni surveys were conducted during summer time by means of e-mails, phone interviews and since 2012 - via online instrument.

During the survey period certain part of alumni was unreachable due to changed e-mail addresses and mobile phone numbers. So, the response rate was calculated out of the number of alumni reached through available contacts. The response rate of alumni respondents fluctuates between 55% (graduates of 2006) and 86% (graduates of 2008).

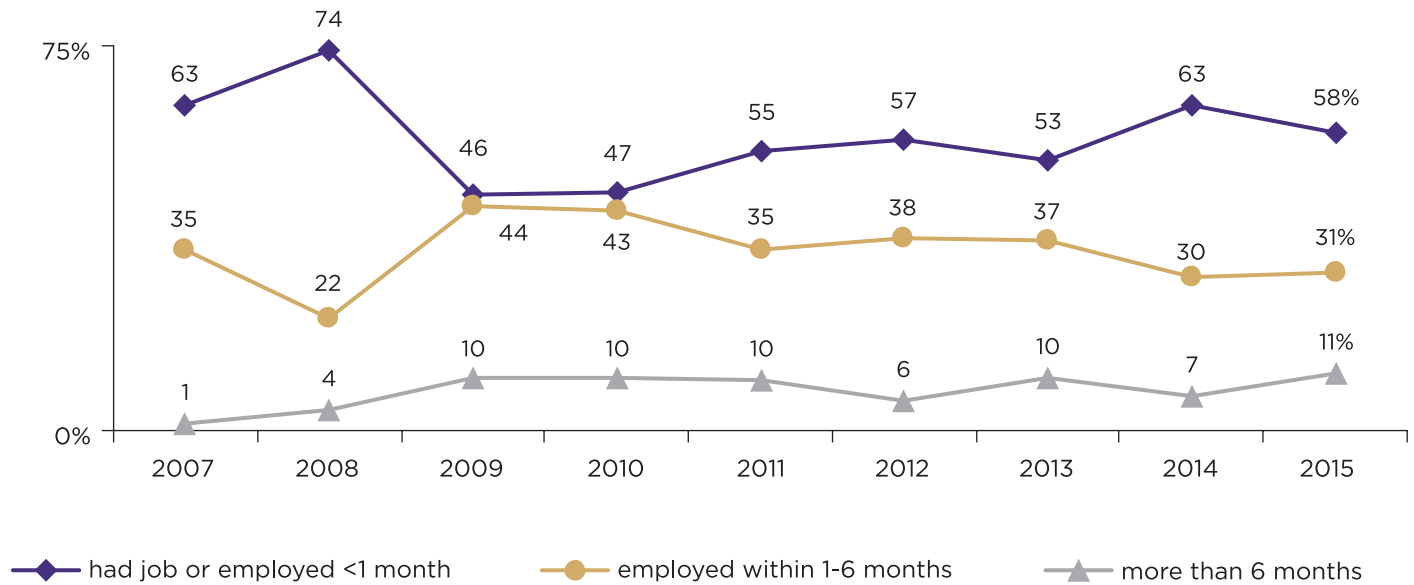
At the time of the survey the overall share of employed alumni comprised over 80%, with the highest employment rate of 89% occurring among the graduates of 2006 and lowest rate of 77% - among the graduates of 2008 (graph 1).

Table 1. Response and employment rates

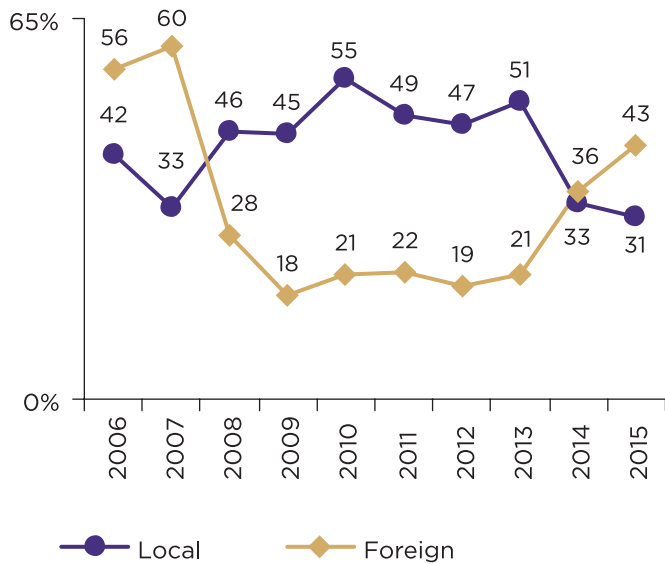
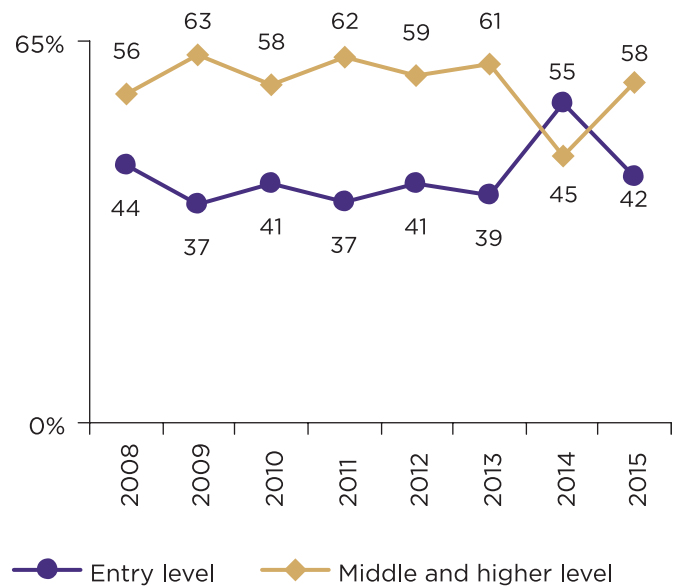
Data	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Graduated, #	468	487	744	990	1087	989	858	762	558	605
Reached on given contacts, #	-	360	537	674	728	763	574	637	458	504
Answered, #	258	216	460	522	487	537	386	399	334	369
Response rate out of reached, %	55.13	60	85.66	77.45	66.90	70.38	67.25	62.64	72.93	73.21
Employed alumni, #	229	179	352	404	384	451	313	328	275	296
Employed alumni out of answered, %	88.76	82.87	76.52	77.39	78.85	83.99	81.09	82.21	82.34	80.21
Employed alumni out of graduated, %	48.93	36.76	47.31	40.81	35.33	45.60	36.48	43.04	49.28	48.93

Graph 1. Response and employment rates

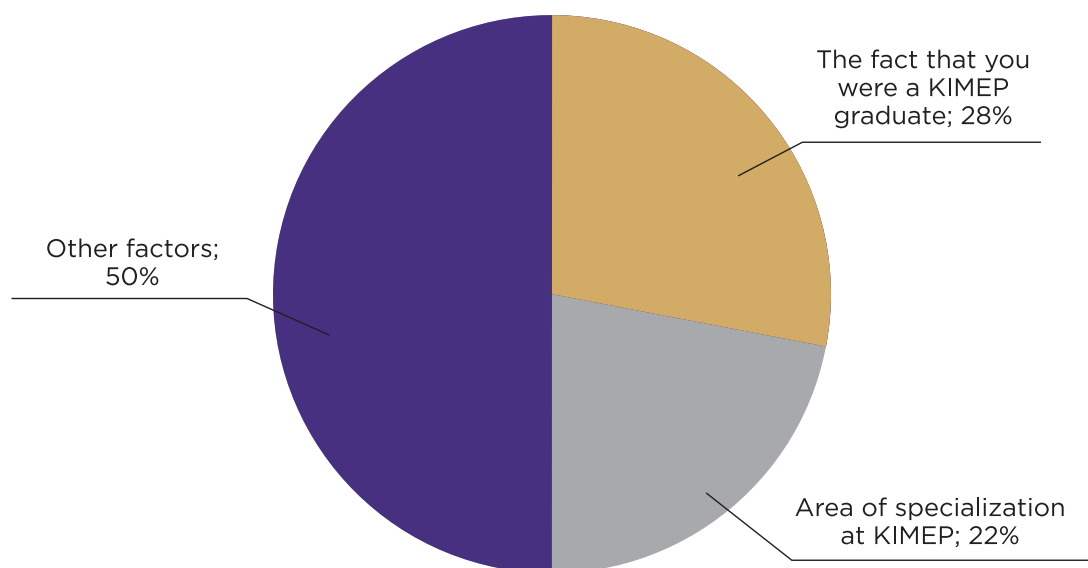
More than half of graduates of almost all years, except alumni of 2009 and 2010, were employed during their studies at KIMEP University or found job less than a month after graduation. The second largest share of alumni of all years (30%-44%) got employed within six months after leaving the alma mater (graph 2). Such short period of job seeking shows the high demand for KIMEP University alumni on labor market. ►►

Graph 2. Time spent for finding a job

Alumni of 2006, 2007 and 2015 mainly worked in foreign companies while the graduates of the other years were employed in companies with local ownership. The largest share of graduates of all years, except alumni of 2014, held middle and above middle level positions in a year after graduation from the University (graphs 3 and 4). Thus, more than half of KIMEP University graduates enter the work force holding managerial and avoiding the entry level positions.

Graph 3. Ownership of the company**Graph 4. Position levels**

Top three industries employing the majority of KIMEP alumni are Auditing, Banking/Finance/Insurance and Oil/ Gas/Mining. In graduates' opinion, the fact of being a KIMEP graduate and area of specialization at KIMEP are the most important factors helping to get their first job after graduation.

Graph 5. Important factors helping to get the first job after graduation

The overwhelming majority of the listed aspects on professional preparedness like research, speaking, writing, problem-solving, communication skills, time-management, etc., provided by KIMEP education, as well as aspects on academic study like knowledge of English, knowledge of theory in major, quality of KIMEP courses and teaching at KIMEP, are evaluated by alumni higher than 4 out of 5 maximum.

To sum up, KIMEP alumni are satisfied with their study at KIMEP and 90% of all respondents show their commitment to alma mater by recommending KIMEP to prospective students acknowledging high quality of education and sharing opinion of KIMEP as the best HEI in Kazakhstan.

KIMEP University is proud of its graduates, their achievements and social standing and wishes them happiness, prosperity and success in all their endeavors.



News from Grants Manager

Dear friends,

Let me introduce last news about scholarships that we managed to get for KIMEP's students and with that I am proud of.

In 2015-2016 academic year KIMEP' students participated in the competition for the scholarship of KAZENERGY Association, which is an association of companies of oil and gas sector, for the first time. 46 students applied for the scholarship and finally we got 40 scholarships which covered tuition fee of maximum 36 credits per academic year. The total amount of the scholarship was more than KZT 60 million that was contributed by North Caspian Operating Company (NCOC).

During the Awarding Ceremony in January 2016 Dr. Bang, representatives from KAZENERGY Association and PSA LLP awarded fellows with the certificates.

Having such a great experience we decided to think how to keep KAZENERGY scholarship for the next academic year and KIMEP came with the suggestion to support this scholarship with 20% of contribution out of the total amount in case more than 40 students get



the grant. Thus, this academic year 60 KIMEP's students out of total 600 applicants from different Kazakhstani universities won scholarships with the total amount of more than KZT 90 million. That was the best achievement of our fundraising work, especially, in this difficult time and taking into account that KIMEP does not belong to oil&gas sector institutions.

I am glad that more students will have financial aid and more students will have the opportunity to get education at KIMEP University. I strongly believe that those people, who once get a financial aid from others, will highly appreciate that chance and in the future they themselves will support other young students at their alma-mater – KIMEP University! Centuplum accipies. I wish you all success!

Alima Dostiyarova

P.S. In 2015-2016 academic year the whole fund of external sponsorship from companies, organizations, public funds was more than KZT 230 million (this amount does not include KIMEP Financial Aid and Trilateral Contracts) that made possible to cover 162 KIMEP' students' different types of scholarships, stipends and financial aid.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

Interview with Konstantin Orlov, BAE 2010

Why did you decide to go to KIMEP?

KIMEP always had a high reputation of an excellent university. Since 7th grade I decided that I definitely will try to enter KIMEP. In fact, when I was thinking where to study in 2005-2006, I didn't see better alternative in Kazakhstan for the major I have chosen. I remember that a couple months before entrance examinations I signed up for English preparation courses at KIMEP. Being on campus for the first time was pleasantly surprising for me: clean campus, big territory, students singing songs and playing guitar sitting on the grass. I really liked it and wanted to experience this atmosphere of a student life as soon as possible.

Later I successfully passed my exams and became a part of KIMEP.

What is your most treasured memory about KIMEP?

I have a lot of positive memories from KIMEP. And I think KIMEP's interesting student life is its main difference from other universities in Kazakhstan. All students can show their talents and skills in various student organizations. Since the very first days at KIMEP I felt a special atmosphere and support from the university to develop creative potential of the students. I liked going to different events like ShowTime, KVN, Mister and Miss KIMEP, KELT performances.

Of course, I wanted to join some organizations. Once I was speaking at a presentation on Introduction to marketing course and people from KVN team came to me after the class and offered me to join their team. Later I became a captain of the team. KIMEP administration always supported us, they even provided our team with a classroom where we could meet and write scenario.

Do you have any memories of outstanding professors?

One of the best things in KIMEP is its professional instructors. However, I was amazed by their dedication to work and absolute transparency in grading students. Many professors were understanding and sympathetic, they cared about students. For example, during my first year when I was taking Introduction to Microeconomics class from John Leonard, I got sick. However, I still kept attending all lectures. As a result, I was feeling worse and worse and had a severe cough at my final exam which was bothering me. I bet all people in the class hated me at that moment. I left the exam feeling unsatisfied, blaming myself that I didn't do my best. I've understood that I had to rewrite it to show my actual knowledge.

Three days later I came to the professor to ask him for one more chance to rewrite the exam, but he ensured me saying that I should wait for the results. And I was so surprised when I found out that I got 33% out of 40%. Maybe I wrote the test so good by myself, but I still think that professor John Leonard added a few points, because I thought I failed it. Somehow I decided to show my gratitude with cognac and chocolate and it shocked me when John Leonard refused to take a standard present we used to give our teachers or doctors. I was 18 and at that time I didn't know that people don't give such presents as a sign of gratefulness in other countries. That was a pleasant surprise and I didn't make such mistakes later.

Some instructors are especially memorable for me. Cristopher White (I've never been so interested in geography as at his classes,) or Dana Bazarkulova, she could explain complicated things by simple language. And also Zhansulu Baikenova who is a very educated and erudite professor.

Where do you work now?

Six months ago I created my own business. It's a Kazakh language center «QazaqStudy». The main advantage of our center is that we teach our students by methods Canadian linguists developed. They have been living in Kazakhstan and learning Kazakh language for several years to find out the most effective method of learning Kazakh using their experience.

How did you start your business?

After graduating from KIMEP I went to Scotland, Edinburgh to continue my education. I got my master degree there and several years worked as an economist and then as a financial analyst. Also, I worked as a head of the financial departments in one of the Kazakhstani investment companies. However, I've never felt satisfaction from what I do. Even with high salary, beautiful office and some future perspectives I didn't enjoy my job. At one moment I realized that it couldn't continue that way and started thinking about opening my own startup. ►►



I decided to open a good Kazakh language center, where people can easily learn how to speak Kazakh. The major difficulty was to find the most effective method of teaching. I spent three months searching for the contacts and then speaking to the huge amount of instructors, businessmen and methodologists, but everything I saw was typical and banal. There were useless exercises, boring tests and millions of vague rules and tables, which students had to learn by heart to speak Kazakh. Luckily, I met these Canadians who lived in Kazakhstan and developed the most effective method to learn Kazakh language. They agreed to share it with me. After opening my center, despite all the difficulties I had, I with certainty can say that my life became much more interesting than before, when I worked for someone else. And I don't have any regrets.

What are your future career path?

I have big plans for expanding our company. We plan to open additional branch offices in Almaty, Astana and

other cities of Kazakhstan. Also, we want to do our best in developing Kazakh language in general. Moreover, recently with the group of coders and programmers we started working on online service of learning Kazakh. We hope that it will partially solve the language problem in Kazakhstan.

Do you stay in touch with your classmates?

Almost all my friends are my friends from KIMEP. It's been 6 years after our graduation but we still remain close friends. I think these friends are people with whom I will be friends for a long time.

What would be your advice to current students?

I want to advise you to find out what you truly want to do in your lives as soon as possible. Discover your talents and strongest sides and sharpen your skills. Also, it is important not to be afraid to try something new. And of course, I strongly recommend to join various student organizations, because you will find amazing people and gain useful experience.

Interview with Aizhan Suleimenova, BAIJ 2014

Why did you choose KIMEP?

KIMEP University - the only university in Kazakhstan that has best journalism program in English. Besides that all of my elder siblings and friends were graduated from KIMEP University and achieved prominent success in their careers. I believe that KIMEP University helps to prepare students to work in a real business environment, and BAIJ faculty in particular prepare students to be effective and responsible media workers, providing media consumers with best services and assisting public to fulfill their needs using mass media.

What memories stand out from your time at KIMEP?

I spend a lot of time in KIMEP's library - quiet, peaceful and inspiring place. I cannot say I was fully involved in KIMEP's student activities, though many friends of mine were active members of different student organizations.

Whenever someone is asking me about time at KIMEP I always say that I enjoyed being a student and I am really grateful to all professors, friends and administration of KIMEP for creating healthy environment that helped me to achieve my goals.

Do you have any memories of outstanding professors?

Saltanat Kazhimuratova and Aigerim Ibrayeva were one of my favorite professors who taught me so many things that helped me in my work. I learnt the advantages of teamwork, how to be a real leader that helps other team members to show best results and keep them motivated, how effectively conduct research, how to work with different sources, how to analyze data, how to be

a responsible and professional journalist and always follow ethical standards and rules. I always will be grateful to our professors that spend their time, efforts to help us be real professionals.

What is your current job and when did you start? Any advancement or promotion since you have started your job?

I'm an editor-in-chief of Forbes Woman magazine and a journalist in Forbes Kazakhstan magazine. First time I joined the Forbes Kazakhstan team in 2013 as KIMEP's journalism program intern. I looked at the internship as an opportunity to develop new skills and experience that could help me to build my career and become a professional journalist.

After graduating KIMEP in 2014 I became a journalist at Forbes Kazakhstan magazine and within a 1,5 year become an editor-in-chief of Forbes Woman.



How did KIMEP education help with your job?

I am really grateful for KIMEP University, because besides educational process it also provides leadership development programs. For a young specialist it is very important and crucial to combine education with internship and KIMEP provides all kind of help and support for students so they can easily balancing between studying and working.

Did you stay in touch with your classmates and if so, how often do you meet them?

Unfortunately, I do not see my classmates very often, though while I was studying at KIMEP I met a wonderful girl who became my best friend and a part of our family.

What would your advice be to current students?

KIMEP gives you everything you need: qualified and supportive professors, healthy environment, flexible schedule, opportunity to study and work at the same time, many interesting networking events, master classes and LDP and is all up to you: either you're going to spend your time effective or party all the time. My advice – try to clearly understand what exactly do you want to do after

graduating KIMEP and while being a student use every little opportunity that will help you to get what you want.

How do you stay calm and focused? Do you do anything outside of work to help you with this?

I just know that the missing the deadlines is not an option. If you want to be a real professional you always have to be responsible, never miss the deadline, communicate your problems and concerns with the team or supervisor and always double check your work.

What are your ideas on happiness and success?

When you are happy with yourself. Every person has its own 'list' of things that make him or her happy or that will get them to the happiness.

Mine is pretty simple: when you do what you love and feel the curiosity and desire to become better in what you are doing. I love the process of working on an article, meeting with new people, sharing new ideas, thoughts, observing them, looking for additional information and every time challenging yourself to be a better journalist. Working hard and seeing results make me very happy.

Interview with Gulbarshyn Akshikova, MBA 1996

Why did you choose KIMEP at that time?

I chose it because it was a new progressive university which could totally change my life by giving me opportunities in business and life in general. I faced 'reconstruction' and lack of money and even though it was a little bit difficult to study in English and combining my work and study, my life was full of interesting student events and meetings.

What professors do you remember?

My professors were excellent! It's Professor Chatterjee, Williams and Williamson, Wagner, Shaw, Grem and Lang Wu. They all are incredible, they gave me not only knowledge, but some beautiful memories. I still keep in touch with some of them.

How did KIMEP help you in your career?

My KIMEP education radically changed my life and gave me an opportunity to work in the biggest international companies like E&Y, Shell, Tobacco Standart Commercial and Sunel Tobacco. Also, I worked in Kazakhstani well known companies like KCELL and Kazpetrodrilling.

What is your current job?

Recently I left my job and now I'm considering new offers. However, I have my own company to develop.

Do you stay in touch with your classmates?

Yes, we maintain our contacts. This year we had a big event at RIXOS to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our graduation, where more than 60 graduates and professors came to see their group mates and students.

What is your idea of success?

The secret of success is to have a grand goal, a wish to achieve it and a constant work to make it happen. The absence of even one thing won't let you to have it all. Also, harmony and support of your friends and relatives is important.

What is your advice for current KIMEP students?

Have a big dream and be confident. Let your knowledge given by KIMEP help you and open perspectives as it helped us. Be deserving leader of the country and make changes for the better to build a happy foundation for Kazakhstan.



Success Story of Nailya Dzharlykhanova, MBA 2005

Director of the company “ZHARNA Consulting N.M.T.”

At the beginning of my career, as a normal student who is endowed with tremendous ambition to make a career and become a leader, I desired to rise through the ranks. And by the will of fate, I got into the state structure - the tax authority, where invaluable professional experience was gained. Working in the tax audit, I wondered why companies save money on qualified specialists, accountants and tax advisers, wasting their time on elementary mathematical errors and lack of professionalism. The idea to create a company specializing in consulting services in tax and accounting was raised. However, the idea was embodied in a few years, as I increased my knowledge in the banking sector, in the area of internal audit, and also teaching activity in the local university.

At the same time, I graduated KIMEP and have got MBA degree in “Finance and Audit”, as my aim was international market and standards.

Actually, in practice, in order to open some consulting business, as a minimum, the client base is needed, as a maximum - a decent investment. Colleagues with whom I shared my plans to go into “an independent swimming”, surprised how establish a company with no client’s base? The main thing is - to make a decision and work on your idea! But, of course, there are lots of barriers and

difficulties, working moments that need to be overcome. I still have questions about how to resist afloat, keep the good name of the company and image. Do not afraid choose the right course and move even small steps, but firmly!

I’m sure that any business is based on mutual understanding, trust and human relations. The next component is the professionalism; otherwise, clients find incompetence and terminate all agreements.

Today, we are well known company in the market of consulting services. We are participants in many business events and forums, conducting expert speakers in the specialized accounting journals, where some cases on tax legislation are explained to taxpayers.

We have an international partner (Austria), we have been implementing new approaches on business processes in organization. We carried out a payroll process in local international bank with calculation of payroll taxes and other mandatory payments to the budget, and tax returns preparation. Nowadays we support projects on delivering of oil and gas equipment, international logistic which is very specific and challenging for our specialists. Our personnel are well motivated, there is no any one boring topic, they learn every day even on the new objects. ZHARNA Consulting operates on the consulting market more than 8 years

and we are very happy to support and share our knowledge and experience in accounting and tax to local and international companies in Kazakhstan.

Good luck to all the graduates of KIMEP, to implement their plans and ideas for the prosperity of Kazakhstan!



Story of Nursultan Belkhojayev, BSC 2010 & Zhamilya Zhukenova, BSC 2010

About us.

We are young Kazakhstani family, during our best student days at KIMEP. me and Zhamilya met each other in the middle of the 1st year of our studies, we were “freshmen”. We quickly found a variety of common things to discuss and became friends. Later on we were talking a lot about the values, interests and views upon many things. I loved trekking in the mountains near Almaty and started to invite friends to travel together, so we have formed a society of mountain explorers. Later Zhamilya had also found she is interested in those tours. So we went on and I was organizing some tracks around Almaty and Zhamilya organized a great journey to the Kolsay Lakes for all of our friends. This trip has made us real friends. Later all of us thought of presenting a mountain-bike for her on her Birthday. It turned out to be a great idea, so our friendship was getting stronger after years.

I need to mention, that our student lives were rather parallel for some time. Zhamilya was active member of various student organizations at KIMEP, organizing and developing herself. Prohibition of smoking on campus, active projects with SIFE student organization and support of other students plus 6 subjects per semester – she was really busy those days. I was happy to become a scholar of Yerzhan Tatishev Foundation and actively organized charity and ecology related projects. In a club of scholars we worked with Orphanage #1 in Orbita district in Almaty, and made mass tours in the mountains to collect rubbish, searched for sponsors ready to help with charity events. Our paths with Zhamilya were crossing from time to time, but mostly they completely different for some time. All of the activities in line with tough requirements for academic achievements made life hard, though interesting. Actually we ourselves were making it rich for events: a tour to Observatory in Almaty to watch the stars, trips to mountains near Almaty by foot and by bike.

There is a drive in having lots of interesting things at high speed and quality. For us it was fun and the most interesting years so far. We were also lucky to have our KIMEP professors pushing us ahead! We appreciate that and think it is really great, when somebody with a rich experience teaches you using case studies, step by step approach and with great love (call it passion!) to the business. We were taught by true masters, who gave us a lot. It has been a while since we had graduated, but the knowledge we have got in our undergraduate studies at KIMEP still helps us to dominate in our fields. We can truly feel it here in Austria today.



For many reasons we have decided to continue our education, although in different areas. Having worked for several years in different industries and projects, we found ourselves in innovations in product management (me), and innovations in tourism management (Zhamilya). Currently we are writing our master theses in these fields. The base fundamental knowledge keeps supporting us here as well. Steve Jobs often told in his speeches that the person should keep searching till he or she finds something that he would do till the end of the life, something that can motivate person without money and something that can make life better. We have read a lot of his citations, various ideas of Richard Branson and decided to continue with our education. Today we are in Austria. Our background covers strategic marketing communications, tourism management, project management, brand management and finance. Those are different facets make us who we are. We are two persons with own vision, ambitions and desire to change the world step by step by doing our business. We communicate well with our friends from the “Marketing Machines” like P&G and Henkel, but we are quite ok with our friends from BIG 4 and banks as well. Many of us found themselves in those disciplines and are actively working on their 10 thousand hours. We are working on that as well, though the areas are different. The important for us is that we have common background and can always understand each other. With this background one can find himself in something completely new, or continue the same path. We can do MSc or a Ph.D as well as pass corporate professional exams within the organisations. (see more about 10 000 hours here: <http://www.forbes.ru/forbes/issue/2009-04/7255-pravilo-10000-chasov>) ►►

What we would like say to all students is just that all of us are having our golden time right now. We are not pressed by job during the studies and it is the best time to think and to make plans. Along with that, we are capable of receiving the most valuable information in the world from our professors. It is in our own power to develop ourselves in important directions. It is much harder to do so, to change something in our lives, when we are fully employed. But if you have decided to change something in your life, do so! LIFE is like LEGO. It is you, who defines what to built out of these lego bricks, while the final result depends on your own will and determination. The main thing is the quality of LEGO bricks and definitely the teachers. Perhaps teachers are even more important than the bricks.

About international working experience.

At the moment I have finished an internship in one of Austrian bicycle producers. Being inside of Austrian company for few months I have noticed several interesting things. In Austrian companies the degree of trust is higher than you would expect. It is assumed, that the given task will be accomplished on time and in high quality. On time means that the task will be finished several days before the deadline and there will be an opportunity to discuss it before the official deadline. The primary language of communication is Austrian (dialect of German). Austrian differs from German in pronunciation and by alterations of many simple words. In many cases it means, that words will sound unfamiliar, because they will be shortened and changed in form. The written form is the same as German, so there should not be problems if you know German. But be prepared that Austrian is different from German in daily life.

Management style compared to KZ. Although the described relationships between top management and employees are quite different between Kazakhstan and Austria, it should be mentioned that in Kazakhstan one can find well managed and interesting companies, like here in Austria. The truth is that it of course depends on the industry, but it is true at least for Advertising and Finance industries.

About plans.

Our friends often ask us about the future plans: so you guys left for education, what's next? Will you stay there? We are still in the process of making the decision and can only share our vision to the current date. To start with, we are reading all news about everything that is happening at home, as well as what it is going on here in Austria. When we were leaving the country, we were leaving our good jobs, good salaries and even if the crisis was starting – leaving usual place of living, your motherland is always hard. It is far easier to stay at home. Despite of this, some people search for their chance, then take it and leave! Sometimes it is associated with risks. Our case

was long-weighted decision - we were saving money for studies in order to be capable of doing it all on our own. Now, when you live abroad for over 1 year there are many more opportunities to find a job, get settled and bring your family here. Coming back into our reality looks like a huge challenge. Using your knowledge properly in our (Kazakhstani) reality is obviously harder, than just finding a perfect job here, abroad. Of course, salaries and quality of management in our companies matter as well. So in order to come back and to help your country to make out, you need to be creative – it might take a while to invent something new, to start a new business or do another job. But if you have a goal of doing something for the country, then those obstacles will make your life interesting and adventurous! We do have a goal like that, so in a long-term we plan to come back to Kazakhstan. We have some ideas and it was a challenge of planning the goal realisation at home. It means that we have reassessed the risks, benefits, roles in the society and self-realization. It definitely results in loosing of feeling of safety and even the quality of life is going to drop down, but the feeling of satisfaction is definitely higher at home.

When you live in Kazakhstan, you don't question yourself of many things. After you have lived in Europe, these things become something basic for you and you take it for granted. That is why you are shocked when you return back home. But it does not mean that we cannot create our own reality at home.

Yes, we want to see our children attending Kazakhstani schools and studying with their friends, feeling that they belong to the country. But the truth is that with every currency devaluation, every corrupted takeover of companies it is harder to modify your plans. We keep abreast of all events at home, but for today belief in your country outweighs the wish to stay in a warm and safe place forever. And we are not the only people, who wish to return back and work for the benefit of own country. We have many great examples of our own friends, changing reality step by step. They start their own projects, new businesses, new areas for development. We make no propaganda by saying that everyone should return home straight away after graduation. It all depends on personal values and factors in consideration, whether it is a need to create a family, professional ambitions or priorities about the place to earn 10 000 hours in your field – strategy and values. One can be working for 5-10 years abroad knowing that he or she will come back home after that, or one could go home right after graduation. Finally, one could not leave the country at all. There are some areas and industries in Kazakhstan that allow our people to develop as fast as in Europe or the US. Not everyone needs to leave the country to start new business. As for us, there is no good or bad option, but there is an individual path of every person. We would say

that it is more important not to get into a situation, when you would be glad hearing bad news from Kazakhstan and saying “Do you see? It is so good that we have left the country!” Or on the contrary, being upset about your friends’ successes saying “Look, our friend did it at home while we are doing nothing important here”. Wherever we would find ourselves, let it bring us positive emotions and let it bring something positive to the society. We personally see our future closely tied to opportunities in

the motherland. For those, who are interested in the topic, Ermek Tursunov has written a lot about it. Of course, we can not speak for everyone who questioned themselves. This is just our current status quo, which we hope will not change for the worse. By the way, Tursunov himself is a great example of a person who returned and reached international success from home in spite of negative analytics and statistical data of Kazakhstan economy.

Love story of Askar and Akzhan Shubaevs

Shubayev Askar, BSC 2014

Shubayeva Akzhan, BSC 2013

I have chosen KIMEP because I was attracted by the fact that classes are being delivered in English and students are independent in creating their own study plans, however I didn't know at that time that KIMEP will play such a big role in my life.

As any other young student I remember the light-hearted feeling of being a student, meeting peers from all around the country, spending nights in a library, participating in different activities & parties organized by KIMEP clubs, but our story begins after graduating from KIMEP.

Right after graduation I was offered a job in Tengizchevroil company in Atyrau as an accountant, so it all started two years ago in the main Tengizchevroil office's cafeteria in Atyrau. It was November and me and my friend went to lunch and barely found spare tables. The only table with free seats was taken by our new colleague from the financial department and we decided to keep him a company and get acquainted. We were talking and laughing trying to investigate where he was from and what reasons he had to work here. It appeared that a new guy, whose name is Askar was a KIMEP alumni, just like us. He moved from Almaty couple of months ago, after getting a job offer after test results at Job Fair. He told us that he made a final decision, because two of his close friends also KIMEP alumni got a job offer in Atyrau as well.

We discovered how many common friends we have and moreover, his mother is from Taraz as well as mine. All these little coincidences already made me feel that I found my soul mate. Later he confessed that he was waiting me going to lunch to spend more time together. We often were going to cinema or to cafés, but we were always surrounded by our colleagues and friends, so Askar couldn't talk with me tete-a-tete.

Finally, at the New Year's Eve he asked me on a date. I remember a small table in Italian restaurant; we were eating pizza and telling stories and memories from childhood and student life. On the way home Askar told me he liked me and I squeezed his hand in return because I liked him too. It was the beginning of our story.

In October we went to Almaty to meet parents and it was a very warm family evening. I was sure that Askar was that one, he was the half of my soul.

On 16 of January 2016, right after a year from the start of our relationships, he asked me to marry him. At that evening I didn't suspect anything, even though the table was surrounded by the balloons and flowers and there was a photographer at another table. But Askar sat on the right knee and asked: "Will you marry me?" and I said yes.

It's been two years since we met each other and two months since we got married. Even though, we've met each other at work, similar background & education gained at KIMEP supported us to be employed in one organization and to meet each other. I am incredibly happy and thankful for my destiny!



KIMEP graduates reunited on the wedding of Askar and Akzhan.

KIMEP IS A FAMILY TRADITION

Mukitanovs Family

Traditions can come from people's ancient ancestors, but they also can appear suddenly and unexpectedly when one thing can change many lives. This is the case of Mukitanovs family.

Zere Mukitanova entered KIMEP in 1994 for the MPA program. "It was an interesting time. Soviet Union collapsed and we understood that we have to start a new life," she says. "I was graduating from university in 1994 and applied to KIMEP in February of that year, because I've heard good things about this new university from my friend."

According to Zere, KIMEP was different from other universities because of its unconstrained and natural atmosphere. "Even though we didn't know English well, we studied hard, but also had a lot of fun. We were spending all of our free time at Fun Club, there always were parties on Fridays or Saturdays."

Zere says that because not so many people studied in KIMEP at MPA program in 1994, everyone knew each other and all classmates were keeping contacts.

"I studied with Zhanat Syzdykov, who is now professor at KIMEP," Zere says. "Actually, he was an initiator of our Alumni reunion this year."

Zere Mukitanova graduated from KIMEP in 1996; however, KIMEP continued to be a part of her life because her nephew Daniyar Mukitanov entered KIMEP in 2006.

"I chose KIMEP because my aunt studied there; she was in one of the first batches of KIMEP alumni," he says. "She always was talking about her great student

experience in KIMEP, and how good and innovative this university is."

Daniyar says that for him KIMEP was a fantastic experience. "I remember myself coming to KIMEP at 9a.m. and leaving KIMEP late at night, even on days when I had no lectures," he says.

KIMEP education helped Daniyar at his first job, because unlike his colleagues from other universities he already knew how to write analytics and write reports.

Now another member of Mukitanov family is studying in KIMEP. Zere Mukitanova's daughter Damina is a second year student of Journalism department. According to Damina, she knew that she will go to KIMEP since 9th grade.

"My mother was telling me lots of interesting stories about KIMEP and I knew that its education is valuable," she says. "Also, my cousin studied here, so I didn't even think of going to other universities."



Zhankoilkovs Family

Aidana, Tomiris, Diana, Melissa Zhankoilkovs.

Aidana and Tomiris are siblings as well as Diana and Melissa, but together they keep traditions of Zhankoilkovs family and studying at KIMEP became one of the traditions of this family.

Aidana is a second year student in BCB with major in accounting. She was the first of sisters to go to KIMEP. At first she went to the KBTU University, but then decided to study at KIMEP. "I didn't like KBTU to be honest and I felt the difference in education and atmosphere when I came to KIMEP," Aidana says. "Here you can combine study and be very active in student life."

Diana entered KIMEP six months later than Aidana. Before KIMEP she studied in Dubai and also didn't find what she was looking for. "I realized that I want to come back to Kazakhstan and spend more time with my family," she says. "I'm glad that I have chosen KIMEP." Now Diana is a second year student with major in accounting.

Melissa and Tomiris both entered KIMEP in 2016. Melissa studies international relations and Tomiris is on foundation level now.

"When we entered the University, my sisters helped me with the registration. They advised professors and showed where different classrooms and halls are

located," Tomiris says: "Of course, other students figured it out by themselves, but it was much easier for me and Melissa, because our sisters were by our side."

According to sisters Zhankoilkovs, parents have a big influence on them. "Parents advised me and Diana to choose accounting," Aidana says. As for Melissa, her uncle offered her to go to international relations, because it reflects her interests and she doesn't regret doing that.

Sometimes little things are more important than big things and sisters Zhankoilkovs also have their small traditions. "We often gather together after the classes at Diana's house and discuss our assignments and plans for the week," Aidana says. We also prepare for the midterms and finals together and help each other with assignments."



ALUMNI NEWS

Note about the 4th annual Kazakhstan-U.S. Convention

The 4th annual Kazakhstan-U.S. Convention was held on Tuesday, December 6th, 2016 in Washington D.C.

“Celebrating the Quarter Century Milestone” marked the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and the United States, and the 25th anniversary of Kazakhstan’s independence.

Our bright alumni, Zarlykhanova Nazerke and Bagytzhanova Aiida, US-CAEF fellows 2012-2016 (graduated in S2016) took part in this high level forum in frames of the U.S. International Capstone Internship program!

Photo below features current US Ambassador to Kazakhstan George Krol, former US Ambassador to Kazakhstan Elizabeth Jones, current Kazakh Ambassador to US Kairat Umarov, and many other important guests.

Congratulations, girls! Well done!



Note from Shynar Kilybayeva, BSC 2015 Erasmus Mundus Alumni, Fall 2014

University of Deusto, Spain

My name is Shynar Kilybayeva, and I am an Erasmus Mundus alumni currently working at PwC Kazakhstan.

Who would I be without Erasmus and academic mobility experience? Well, probably the same – an auditor of Big 4 thanks to my diploma of KIMEP University. But, what is the difference between a previous me and a person, who experienced life in a foreign country, I do not mean vacations, where you have money, hotel and several weeks of fun. I mean real life, where you get lost in unknown village, and the next train to the city is only after 8 hours, where you have no place to stay at night, where you lost your passport and can not return your airticket and had to miss concert of Beyonce. Well, I do not want to tell all my failures, nevertheless, I learnt much living there. I was surrounded by different people of diverse cultures, each of them taught me to think broader, to see something that was hidden for me before. Undoubtedly, I use that experience every day in my professional judgement and in an ordinary communication as well. And even now, memories of all the funny and sometimes embarrassing moments make me smile.



Story of Samal Koizhanova, BAIJ 2016

My name is Samal Koizhanova and I have the best job in the world. International conferences, foreign companies, business trips, championships and lots of communication - that's all about my work at the Organizing Directorate of Winter Universiade 2017 in Almaty.

I am 23 years old now, I speak 6 languages, and I have very rich background.

Due to my numerous voyages and international experiences, I can bravely say that I have enough of skills for taking part in such a huge and significant project for our entire country.

My first long lasting trip passed in the USA at Laramie city, state of Wyoming. I was a winner of exchange student program at KIMEP University, and due to that program I had a great experience at Wyoming University and I got strongly motivated in learning everything new to me - languages, cultures, countries, cities. Thanks to that experience I was totally convinced that I chose my profession in a right way.

On my 4th year of study I won two scholarships at once, those were Korean scholarships, so I made my summer semester at KyungSung University where I studied Korean language, culture and cuisine; and then I made a regular academic semester at Pusan National University.

Thanks to Student Exchange Program at KIMEP University I've been to 5 countries and more than 20 cities, for now I have friends from all over the world that I love and keep in touch with. We met several times with our international friends on a "neutral territory", for example with my American friend we've met again somewhere in Europe. It is all magnificent and I am deeply grateful to KIMEP and its International Academic Mobility Office for such great opportunities, because for now international experience helps me a lot at my job and motivates me to achieve more than anybody else can.



Note from Exchange Student Daniel Tsur, Spring 2016

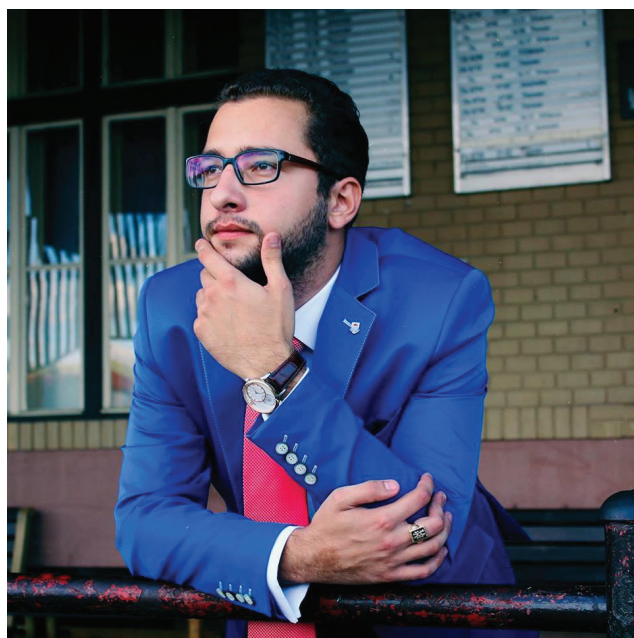
Oxford Brookes University, UK

Since I was a kid I wanted to go, travel, explore new things and develop. When coming to University in the UK I have immediately realised that going on exchange would further enable me to study and at the same time travel and explore unknown countries.

Being on Exchange at KIMEP was the greatest part of my life. Half a year of living in a very interesting country getting to know the local culture and travel just put me on a wholly new level. Central Asia is a very interesting and beautiful place full of unknown secrets. Countries like Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan offer a solid place to enhance cultural learning and personally develop.

KIMEP is really a western style university in Almaty, the financial center of Central Asia. Working with professors from around the world and countries like US, UK, Russia, Korea they provide a solid standard of education in different business based sectors.

In conclusion I always encourage all my European and American friends all over the world to spend their best half a year of their life in Kazakhstan.



ALUMNI CONTRIBUTION

Gratitude to Rakhmet Scholarship Fund

By Daulet Musstafin, BSC 2015

My name is Musstafin Daulet, and I would like to share my story with you. I was born in a small town called Stepnogorsk in Akmola region in the family of an engineer and a kindergarten teacher. I also have an older sister. I am a graduate 2015 of Bang College of Business. Currently I am working at the FLEX program at the American Councils for International Education.

In Fall 2013, I was awarded a scholarship founded by first KIMEP graduates (alumni class of 2003), the RAKHMET Scholarship. It was hard for my parents to pay for my studies, since only dad was working and sister was just a beginning specialist at that time.

At the end of the second course parents were having some financial difficulties and I started to look for different ways to make my studies more affordable for my family. Suddenly, in one of the fall days I received a call from Corporate Development department at KIMEP University and found out that I was invited for an interview in one of the biggest companies in Kazakhstan as scholarship candidate. It seemed to me that it was a long interview, however it lasted for 8-10 minutes only, and when I've left the conference room I was not sure that I can become the recipient of this scholarship.

However then I got a call from London, it was from one of the co-founders of this company, also graduate of our alma mater, he talked to me in a friendly manner and told me about the grant and reasons that drive the sponsors of the scholarship. Later I received a call from KIMEP and was told that I had won this grant. From the conversation with co-founder of this company - graduate of KIMEP, I realized how important it is to contribute not only in self-development, but also to give others a chance to have successful lives as well. This scholarship established by graduates of 2003 covered whole

semester of my studies, thereby I would like to express gratitude on behalf of my family and me.

At the moment, as we all know, there is a financial crisis in our country; many current students at KIMEP University entered it before the devaluation of the tenge. Now parents of these children do not have enough financial capacity, some even lost their jobs. I want to encourage you to continue supporting those students who need your help. When I was awarded a certificate for the scholarship, one of graduates noticed that this scholarship is not corporate.

It is only alumni initiative - it is more difficult to allocate your own money rather than corporate, but if the goal is investing in education of younger generation then costs always justify the means.

You can make your own choice in distributing grants, but if you need some help to conduct interviews and/or select candidates, I am ready to help you; the goal here is to help current students finish university and start confidently their own professional path.





Note of Appreciation to KIMEP Class of 1996

One of KIMEP's favorite traditions is Alumni Reunion. On May 2016 Class of 1996 gathered together to celebrate 20 years since graduation. The event took place at the Rixos Hotel in Almaty. More than 60 graduates came to share warm and friendly atmosphere of the evening. As a result of this reunion we are happy to inform that KIMEP University Class of 1996 donated 1 million KZT for grants to our needy students! The committee consisted of representatives of Class 1996 and CDD (Corporate Development Department) members; three students were chosen from the list of students who applied for financial aid. Students were happy to get grants.

We are absolutely thrilled that our alumni class of 1996 has so generously decided to donate such a significant gift to current students. This signifies their strong support and loyalty to the University, and also their belief that all alumni can help to create a better future for deserving students.

We appreciate great work done by Zhanat Syzdykov, KIMEP Professor and Alumni of Class 1996, appreciate his enthusiasm, energy and commitment.

ALUMNI REUNION MOVIE NIGHT 2016

Date - October 7 2016

KIMEP University organized an important event for its alumni in the heart of Almaty city. Restaurant Fellini Grill Pasta Bar and Kinopark Cinema chain agreed to sponsor the event and supported the original format of the evening - a buffet and a premier preview of movie in English language, rotated in Kazakhstan as the "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children" by an American film director Tim Burton.

Family-like friendly evening was accompanied by live music, which was presented by talented faculty members - Law School Professor Sergei Sayapin and Language Center teacher Ziyash Suleimenova, who is also a graduate of the University.

The official part of the evening started by Raushan Kanayeva, Director of Corporate Development Department and Timothy Barnett, Provost and General Deputy to the President of the University. Saltanat Dzhekebaeva, Director of Development and Marketing at Kinopark also gave a speech on behalf of partners of the evening. KIMEP alumni speeches were very touching. Mustafin Daulet (BSC G2015), Temirlan Moldabergenov (BSC G2015), Asia Yermukhametova (BSC 2011) - KIMEP graduates who have been scholarship holders of such grants as Samsung, Rakhmet Scholarship and Almaty International Woman Club; in their speeches they called everyone to support other students through the Rakhmet Scholarship fund. Assiya told about her experience, that there is nothing impossible when you are a young specialist and choose to be a donor for other students (she initiated stipend to one needy student-girl): "I decided to assign a scholarship since back in time I myself

received good financial aid from both KIMEP and AIWC (Almaty International Women's Club). I know how much it means for students from needy families, and I am happy that now I have the opportunity to help some other students."

After the buffet and a photo session guests were invited to the cinema hall. An interesting new movie from the master of modern cinema, a full house of guests (alumni set up even on the stairs) and a lottery from our sponsors - all these made this evening fun and unforgettable. This event united together alumni of different years of graduation, working in different fields.

As Madi Aitimov (BSC 2012), KIMEP graduate, producer and the founder of "Young Cinema" Public Foundation said:

"For the past two years, I was able to release a full-length "Черновик" movie and youth serial "ПоколениеQ". KIMEP University acted as a major supporter in both movie projects! Last Friday for me, as a real movie fan, it was a great pleasure to watch this movie one of the first in the country, and moreover in the original language (English). Despite the fact that the number of visitors exceeded the number of seats, guests did not hesitate to sit on the stairs, bringing ottomans and chairs. There was no embarrassment at all, because KIMEP University, its faculty, students and alumni - is one big warm family. PS: A film as expected turned out great! I recommend to view it, and definitely in the original language. You can unwittingly fall in love, when you hear Eva Green' pronunciation".





CONTACT US

Ways to keep in touch

- Have you changed your job, email or phone number? Update your contact information electronically: cdd@kimep.kz.
- Keep up to date on events, news, contests, and more via e-mail.
- Get together with alumni in your region or who share your interests.
- Build your professional networks and connect with Alumni through KIMEP official pages on Facebook @kimepalumniassociation and Instagram @kimep_alumni_association

Alumni Success Stories

If you would like KIMEP to highlight your professional or community service activities, we will be happy to include your profile in alumni-related publications. Please contact cdd@kimep.kz to participate.

Services for Alumni

KIMEP is proud of its Alumni. The success of the Institute depends primarily on the success of its graduates. KIMEP is pleased to offer the following list of benefits for its Alumni, and encourages Alumni to take advantage of the following services.

- 10% discounts for the trainings of Professional Development Programs (PDCP) of the College of Continuing Education of KIMEP, as well as foreign language courses and preparatory courses for the children for the admission to KIMEP.
- Free access to the information resources of the KIMEP Library.
- Free entrance to the KIMEP Sports Center.
- Rental of the conference halls of KIMEP with 20% discount for the conferences, trainings, and seminars.
- Career and Employment Center offers its services to help alumni to find good candidates among KIMEP graduates for work or students for internships opportunities.







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