

# KIMEP TIMES

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# U.S.-CAEF Farewell

The U.S.-CAEF (Central Asia Education Foundation) scholarship is a grant which annually funds students from Central Asian countries to pursue their education at KIMEP University. It was founded by the Central-Asian American Enterprise in 2007 with an initial investment of \$15.7 million by the US government. The board of directors of the program consists of 4 members, and its president is Stephen Weinroth, who researched and found out that Central Asia is lacking a private business sector with westernized education. Though demand for such education was strong, many ambitious students did not have financial resources to pursue their business education in higher institutions with Western education systems. Thus, the U.S.-CAEF committed to proposing a financial-need and merit-based funding opportunity to high performers in universities that have implied a modern approach into their system. Upon agreement, the scholarship holders should be citizens of one of the five Central Asian countries, including Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, and obtain their education in business fields in of the two partner universities. KIMEP University was chosen as one of the partners, because of its westernized way of

teaching, dedication to students and their long-term goals, academic and non-academic opportunities, as well as the institution's language of instruction and its recognition in the international business field in the Central Asian vibrant economy. KIMEP University has been supporting the mission of U.S.-CAEF by providing a partial and matching scholarship to U.S.-CAEF fellows. Moreover, the university has provided a base for improving competency and functional skills, as well as their critical thinking over the years, training them as potential employees in a professional business environment while also working towards their high-quality education. Additionally, U.S.-CAEF delivers two valuable lifetime experiences to its fellows, and the Regional Internship program is one of them. The program promotes the improvement of the practical skills of 2nd-year fellows by allocating them to companies of their interest for 2 months to pursue their internships in various commercial departments. Annually, 9 scholarship holders from KIMEP University participate in this program, apply the theories learned from their classes at the university into practice, and put a foundation towards their future career development. One of the participants of the

Regional Internship Program Eraj Nasriddinov describes his internship experience in the following way: "I gained a better understanding of corporate culture, the way companies operate, both internally and externally". In addition to this program, another highlight of the U.S.-CAEF is the Capstone program which provides 6 months internship in a US company to the most talented senior fellows who have performed extraordinary academic and professional performance, 3 senior fellows from KIMEP University receive admission to this program every year and experience the practical working environment in the USA

to their full capacity. Dilrabo Saidaliyeva, who is currently participating in this program, states that it has changed her life fully and built a significant foundation on her further career path. Like all Enterprise Funds, the "sunset" date for the U.S.-CAEF scholarship at KIMEP University came in 2018, which makes the class of 2022 the last generation of the program at KIMEP. Over the years, with the support of our university, U.S.-CAEF has been able to support 159 KIMEP students including 14 current fellows financially, and help them pursue their education in one of the most prestigious universities of Central Asia. The Regional

Coordinator of the program, Saule Kussayeva, expresses her gratitude saying "It is a very special unique program for me, during which I really enjoyed working with our incredible fellows and alumni. Seeing them grow academically, personally and professionally has been rewarding". Finally, the scholarship has enabled our alumni and current grant recipients to study for 4 years in a high-quality university and gain an entrepreneurial business mindset that will further empower their contribution to the Central Asian economy.



## «Being the first graduate is very exciting, all the attention is around you»

Many unexpected things happened in 2020: the pandemic, the switch to online classes, and my enrollment in KIMEP. Everything at university seemed so incomprehensible it was almost impossible to make sense of all the new information. However, other students began to help me. In our college chat was a mysterious guy who was called "The Father of CHE." He

knew everything. It turned out that he was one of the first students in the College of Humanities and Education. His real name is Ali and in the spring of 2021, he became the first graduate of our college. I wondered what his path was and what lies ahead for him. Therefore, I decided to interview this compassionate and intelligent man.

— Hello, Ali. Can you please tell us about yourself?  
— Hello, sure. My name is Ali, I am 22 years old, and I graduated from KIMEP University in 2021. Currently, I am a student of the "Master of Arts in Education Policy and Management" program at KIMEP.

— What was your faculty before BATS (Bachelor of Art in Translation Studies)? What influenced your decision to go to a new college?  
— All my life, the process of learning foreign languages was easy and exciting for me. Naturally, when I graduated from high school, I wanted to tie my future life with this sphere. I was looking for a faculty that somehow connected with my passion. At that time, there was no College of Humanities at KIMEP, but there were international relations. I hoped that I could find some courses that include languages here

— What is it like to be a pioneer? The College of Humanities opened in 2018, and you were one of the first students.  
— It was very cool. Our college was built from scratch, everything was new not only for students but for administration as well. Together we discovered how to transfer credits, searched for internship opportunities and exchange programs, and we dealt with all issues. This was amusing and interesting.

— What did KIMEP give you?  
— In my opinion, we have great professors and a reliable American learning system. However, generally, I developed my social skills, made a lot of connections and friends. Friends from Uni helped me to find and understand myself. Therefore, I believe that the relationships between people at KIMEP are what make it unique. But studying was a significant part of my life too. My favorite course was related to translating movies, TV shows and doing subtitles. It was a very creative subject.

— Why should prospective students choose the College of Humanities?  
— In the age of globalization, the majority of young people are connecting with languages. At least everyone knows English. This is the reason why learning languages in more depth is beneficial and compelling. Our college offers not only linguistic courses, which are theoretical but also practical, such as translations, teaching, working with cognitive sciences, computer science, psychology, and so on. By practicing, you can find a good job, not just get stuck in the four walls of the academy, but go into the open world and work as a professional.

— What is it like to be the first graduate?  
— Honestly, it's hard to say, since I haven't graduated. There are many reasons for this, not only the pandemic. I am continuing to study at KIMEP for my master's degree. All people around me are the same, I have a feeling that I am still a bachelor student. Now I am starting to realize that the "bachelor" chapter of my life is over. I already need to move to another one. Being the first graduate is very exciting, all the attention is around you. The whole administration was waiting for me to graduate because it was our common effort. The administration helped me with subjects and schedules. I also tried to study well, to not let them down. I am happy that after going through all the difficulties, I can share my experience and knowledge. I can help other people.

— What would you advise to a younger version of you? What can you recommend to the current students?  
— It may be a cliché, but I would advise myself to develop as much as possible, both academically and socially. My last year at university as a bachelor's student was supposed to be the best. My friends and I have so many plans for it. But then the pandemic ruined them: the campus was closed, all activities were canceled. Nowadays, no one knows what will happen tomorrow so try to have fun and enjoy being a student.



Written by  
Anastasiya Dolgova



# Inauguration in Student Government



Decorations, smiles and applause. On November 15, the KIMEP students gathered on the second floor of the New Academic building to witness the inauguration ceremony of the Student Government. The dedication ceremony took place in the New building on the second floor. Naturally, the procession started with the national anthem. The symphony of ovations greeted the newly elected representatives. Student Government is the bridge between students and the administration that consists of the representatives of the student community. It is an institution which addresses the concerns of the students and deals with them in a diplomatic and peaceful manner. It receives requests of varying degrees which are then sorted and brought to the appropriate authorities. Essentially the student government is a voluntary formation where important work is carried out for the benefit of all students. KIMEP student government was established by Dr. Bang with the sole purpose of a selfless serving of student needs. Akin to the real governments, KIMEP Student Association is formed on the basis of periodic democratic elections. Traditionally, they result in a colourful inauguration ceremony. This year's inauguration was no exception. Many students came to share this special day with the new members of the KSA cabinet. During the inauguration, the former president of KSA transferred his responsibilities to the newly elected one. This position is now taken by Sanat Koshen, the former Vice President of Administration. In the middle of the event, several faculty members delivered the speeches, wishing new cabinet members successful and productive work. Vows of the deputies and

vice-presidents formalized their entry into the Student Government. The whole ceremony was witnessed by a plethora of camera lenses and the excited eyes of the students. KIMEP Times, in turn, broadcasted the event. The inauguration ended following the applause and cheering from the side of the audience. "Now our student life is in their capable hands," reassuringly said someone in the crowd. We hope that the Student Government will also successfully cope with their responsibilities, like all the past ones, and will make our university only better. The new president, Sanat Koshen, shared his thoughts on the forthcoming work of the government. He commented: "For the first time in two years, we are getting back online. I strongly believe that our primary goal, for now, is to make this transition as painless and imperceptible as possible. This is essential to ensure that the students could concentrate on their studies, sports, and activities of KIMEP organizations, while not worrying about administrative concerns of any sorts that might emerge in the process. The motto of the Student Government is: students can entrust all problems to us and we will solve all of them! The same goes for the previously raised issues. For instance, the infamous problem associated with Wi-Fi, that is consistently brought to the table. In fact, it has been in the process of being addressed for some time." We also had a chance to talk to the Vice President of Finance (Alisher Gubaidullin), Vice President of Sports and Culture (Nurzhigit Kopzhassar), and CSS-4 deputy (Arman Turgayev). They were asked the same question: "Why did you choose this run for your position?" These were their

answers:  
Alisher Gubaidullin: "Last year I was a member of the budget committee where I could observe the activity of the Student Government. I also acquired relevant experience in the procurement department. Sanat personally saw me in this position. I really like our government and find it quite fascinating. Besides, this experience will certainly help me in my future work."  
Nurzhigit Kopzhassar: "It all began in the first year. I was a member of different organizations. Everyone was intimidated by the Tender Committee. We had been making presentations, introducing events, attending meetings, yet in the last two years, I started wondering what it is like to be on the other side. That is why I decided to apply for this position. Besides, the sport has always been my passion. I think we need to develop in this area and move forward."

Arman Turgayev: "Frankly, I was not quite satisfied with my college. That is when I decided that I could be the one to make a difference. In this sense, the Student Government provides vast opportunities. Essentially, it is an effective tool. My peers and fellow students are dear to me, I would like to ease their life by eradicating all the obstacles that I have been facing. My main aim is to create conditions that would foster new professionals in the field of social science and journalism." The inauguration ceremony has only been a small portion of the history of the present cabinet. We had an opportunity to briefly acquaint ourselves and the readers with the new representatives of the Student Government. We wish this good tradition is going to last. Meanwhile, we hope that the students will continue to actively engage in campus life.

Written by  
Diana Dolgashova



### Newly Elected KSA Cabinet for 2021-2022

**President**  
Sanat Koshen

**Vice President of Administration**  
Bikhanyam Begaly

**Vice President of Finance**  
Alisher Gubaidullin

**Vice President of Sport and Culture**  
Nurzhigit Kopzhassar

**BCB Deputies**  
Parvina Davlyatova  
Maira Galym  
Nurislam Pazylykhan  
Alina Sufiyeva

**CHE Deputies**  
Alisher Sadykov  
Dana Abdikhaliyeva  
Alima Zhaksylyk

**CSS Deputies**  
Arman Turgayev  
Aisha Dusupova  
Aiya Siyaz  
Aruzhan Amangeldy

**LLB Deputies**  
Dana Alikhan  
Bakhytzhana Maidanuly  
Roman Zhelak

**International Deputy**  
Aynur Meredova

**Graduate Deputy**  
Dinmukhamed Niyazov

**Alumni Deputy**  
Yulia Khvan





# New Professors at KIMEP

KIMEP welcomes a new professor of the art program, Assel Kadyrkhanova. For the past five years, she has lived in Leeds, UK, doing her PhD at the University of Leeds. Leeds is a big city in the heart of Yorkshire, a beautiful corner proudly called "God's own county" by its locals.

Dr. Kadyrkhanova is a visual artist and academic. She works across a variety of media, including drawing, installation art and moving images. Her doctoral research is on art as a medium of memory, with a specific focus on post-Soviet memory and trauma. The Professor's latest work is a hand-drawn animation based on memoirs about the Kazakh famine of the 1930s.

Her decision to come to KIMEP stemmed from the introduction of a new art program by the College of General Education. Miss Assel has always been aware of the excellent reputation of KIMEP University, but she had thought about it mainly as a business school. The news about the initiation of the art program changed her perceptions. In her opinion, Kazakhstan has good art universities, yet they offer a more conservative approach to visual art. Choosing KIMEP, she was enticed by the freedom to employ her own methods and techniques, which would allow her to combine traditional and contemporary approaches.

Currently, Dr. Kadyrkhanova is finalizing her doctoral thesis for publication. In addition to that, she hopes to organize an exhibition of her most recent artwork. Even though the pandemic spoiled much of her plans in preventing people from gathering, she hopes we will be able to see more art displays in the nearest future as things go back to normal.

Moreover, she was pleased to learn about proactive KIMEP student life and its organizations like Art Revolution, which unites young talents in different spheres such as art, music, and photography. "It is an amazing initiative", the professor says.

Prof. Assel's advice to Kimep students would be to learn to their full potential and seize every opportunity. "Worry less about grades but more about actual knowledge of the subject because this is what will help you in your future careers. Learn perseverance – mistakes and failures are never permanent; if you learn from them, they become the steps to building a smarter, stronger, and more proficient you.", Dr. Kadyrkhanova says. Additionally, she wishes everyone a smooth end of the semester and a cosy, beautiful wintertime.

Our companionable KIMEP community wishes Assel Kadyrkhanova good luck in her new beginnings.



Written by  
Meruert Asankhanova  
Anastasiya Dolgova



The department of international relations is expecting an addition to the faculty.

A social scientist specializing in political sociology, social networks, and comparative historical analysis, Jacob Reidhead obtained his Ph.D. in sociology at Stanford University.

He was raised in Tempe, Arizona, and has lived much of his adult life in Seoul. In 2008 and 2009, doctor Reidhead spent six months in North Korea as a field officer for a USAID food program. The list of his previous cities of residence is quite extensive and includes Almaty, Chengdu, Columbus, Honolulu, Kaohsiung, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle. Over and above, he speaks fluent Korean, conversational Chinese, and has recently embarked on Russian.

His story with Kazakhstan began in 2018. When I asked about the reason behind applying to KIMEP, the professor recalled his first visit to Almaty. He confesses that the city immediately fell into his heart, and he could not help but return. In Dr. Reidhead's opinion, the university attracts some of the most talented students in the region. Another significant factor was the extensive ties between KIMEP and Korean institutions and the Korean diaspora. For the accomplished political science scholar with robust expertise in Korea and Taiwan studies, the university presented a perfect fit. However, Dr. Reidhead does not limit himself to his field and expresses an interest in the culture, politics, and society of Central Asia. One way or another, all scholars look forward to sharing their knowledge and experience. Our new faculty member is not an exception. With the far-reaching set of skills in methodology, the professor is planning to run a social science lab where students could advance their skills in statistics, data analysis,

Python, and other essential elements of any research. His favorite methods, he admitted during the interview, are ethnography, statistical modeling, social network analysis, and natural language processing (NLP).

"My number one goal, as a professor, is to mentor and prepare students for their career and life after university", Dr. Reidhead shared. The professor joins KIMEP with a new course in the upcoming spring semester. He is extremely excited about future interactions with students and ready to help with their research projects. However, judging by experience, he said that the most important teaching and social interaction happen outside of the classroom. Student life is one of the domains in which such synergy takes place. Aware of the active campus life at KIMEP, Dr. Reidhead is hopeful to become a part of this slice of the KIMEP community, and he said "I will proactively look for ways to engage students' needs and interests."

Finally, when asked what message or words of encouragement he would like to pass to our students, Dr. Reidhead replied: "What is waiting for you after college: A long-term career? A short-term job? Travel abroad? Entrepreneurship? Graduate school? Marriage and a family?"

College students today face a wider range of choices than ever before. When I was an undergrad, I had a MILLION interests, a THOUSAND plans, and ZERO idea of what my future career would be.

I empathize with your uncertainty and anxiety about the future. I also assure you that things will eventually work out if you work hard, develop useful skills, and keep an open mind!"

Thank you, Dr. Reidhead! We wish you good luck and can't wait to welcome you at KIMEP!



Written by  
Anel Smailova

Economist and former chair of the Federal Reserve of the United States, Alan Greenspan, stated, "Financial education is a process that should begin at an early age and continue throughout life. This cumulative process builds the skills necessary for making critical financial decisions that affect one's ability to attain the assets and improve economic well-being." Despite financial literacy being so important for the individual, the Global Financial Literacy Survey found out that only 33% of adults are financially literate.

## KIMEP Students Association Budget Committee. KSA Tender Committee.

At KIMEP there are three budget institutions that simulate real financial structures. Students' membership in that financial institution helps them in developing their financial literacy.

Every semester the Tender Committee approves Students Organizations' events. The committee is headed by the Vice President of Sports and Culture and also includes three deputies from KIMEP Student Government. Also, four independent candidates chosen among KIMEP students participate in the tender. Usually, during the tender, which lasts three hours, representatives from different Student Organizations present ideas of their events and answer questions of the Tender Committee.

After the Tender Committee selects the events, the Budget Committee decides how to manage the budget among organizations. The budget is formed using the fees that each student pays at the beginning of the semester. The Budget Committee is headed by the Vice President of finance and three KSA deputies. Four other independent members also participate in the committee. One of the former VPs of Finance, Dinmukhammed Niyazov, was responsible for all objectives connected with finance. For example, the cost of education, scholarships, student fee amount, university management and student budget. Dinmukhammed stated that his experience as KSA's VP of Finance helped him develop analytical and budget planning skills.

## Finance program.

At KIMEP, the Bang College of Business provides opportunities for getting Bachelor and Masters in finance. Each program includes not only subjects required for future professionals, but also classes in which students learn essential life skills. For instance, Maya Katenova, a professor of the financial department who teaches the course Personal Finance gives students practical assignments and projects which help them in real-life decision making. She claims that managing one's own financial resources is a crucial skill for any person. "Financial literacy is the ability to manage your financial resources. Also, it is your ability to achieve your financial goals. In order to buy a house or a car, one should be able to make savings to finance such large purchases. Moreover, each individual should find suitable options in terms of a mortgage or car loans."

Bachelor of Finance student Dilnoza Khuseynova says that she uses knowledge from financial classes a lot in everyday life. "Finance is something I face all the time because I have to plan my budget, to know how to spend my money. Besides that, when I watch some news or TV shows there are always some finance-related terms, for example stock prices and cryptocurrency. My finance knowledge helps me to better understand what's happening in the world."

We have been learning how to write and count since early childhood, we have biology and chemistry classes at school, but usually, we skip the most crucial part of basic education - financial literacy. At KIMEP University there are a lot of opportunities for students to become financially literate.

## Student organizations budgeting.

More than 30 student organizations operate at KIMEP University. Every organization arranges on-campus and off-campus events to make student life unique and interesting. At KIMEP, there are sports, arts and culture, charity, intellectual, and entertainment organizations. A finance department is formed in every student association. The financial department makes the budget applications and participates in KSA Tender and Budget Committee Hearings.

Arman Turgayev, former president of the KIMEP Times described budget allocation in the following way: members of student organizations make estimates for the staff needed for the event based on the price list of companies that collaborate with KIMEP. Then all these calculations are put to the table form. "My experience in KIMEP Times and budget-making helped me to understand the taxation system and gave me insight into managing my personal finances," Arman explained.

## Margarita Lyuts KIMEP alumni

Former editor in chief of KIMEP Times newspaper Margarita Lyuts was making the budget and attending tender for the KIMEP Times organization. She states that her experience in the organization helped her to understand how the business-to-business financing system works. "Budget planning for KIMEP Times newspaper taught me how to defend the organization's interests, how bureaucracy works, and to plan the budget ahead." Margarita stated that long-term planning skills helped her in managing her personal finances when she moved to Europe after graduation.





# Theatrical Plot

## Interview with Abay Chinibekov

Written by  
Arman Turgayev



Two months ago, Abay Chinibekov, a fourth-year student of Finance at KIMEP University, was offered a job at the head office of Google in Dublin. We decided to ask him how he got there and what he expected in the future.

The interview is based on the concept of building theatrical plots and is divided into three parts: Character, Obstacle, and Objective. In the theater, the Character is an actor who performs a theatrical act. An Obstacle is what the Character must go through to reach the Objective. The Objective is the purpose for which the act is performed.

### Part One: The Character

- Hello, Abay. What do you do right now? Do you have any projects at the moment?

- Right now, my main activity is all about KIMEP: Firstly, studying. I have to graduate and I am taking seven courses this semester, which means I need to spend a lot of time on campus. Secondly, I run a charity project where we make soup for homeless people every week. We make 60 liters of soup in one big pot. Thirdly, I do theater in KELT. With them, we made a new theatrical production this semester, which I auditioned for but did not get a role. But even so, I help out because I am now the acting president of a student organization. I do set building, including all the walls.

- How do you rate KIMEP's education in terms of employment opportunities for our students?

- I think I have a very good education at KIMEP. Even if you look at the employment statistics after graduation, students go mainly to the international companies that exist in Kazakhstan, like Mars, JTI, Big Four, and so on. The fact that the "Big Four" are so desperate to recruit people with KIMEP education shows that students come out of here

with a good foundation of knowledge. In general, I think that KIMEP offers very good development opportunities, not only within the classroom but also in the organization of events. As long as a student is actively involved in all this and tries to do something, he or she can learn a lot and have the opportunity to do it.

### Part Two: The Obstacle

- Then the question is directly about your employment. How did you get an internship at Google?

- It started in 2018. We had a session at KIMEP with Google about what internships they offered. Then I met a girl named Bota, who graduated from KIMEP and now works at Google. I listened to their lecture and decided to apply for an internship during my sophomore year. I was refused an internship, but I did not give up, and a year later, I applied again. When I was in my third year, it was easier. I went through a rather difficult and lengthy process for the internship. I had several interviews, phone calls, and so on during six months. Eventually, I was given an internship for 2020, but because of the pandemic, it was canceled. At that time I was still in Hong Kong [on

an Exchange Program] and came back in November 2020. Since I took an academic year, I was still a third-year student. I decided to apply again, and a month later I heard that I did not have to go through all the stages again, since I was a candidate last year, and they wanted me to do the internship. I did a virtual internship, but I had to move to a country with a Google office. There were no opportunities in Kazakhstan, so I decided to go to Turkey.

- How did your internship go, and what were your duties?

- During your internship at Google, you are given a project that you have complete control over and in which you decide what to do with it. It is a great experience to have ownership over the project. For me, it was a project on one of Google's advertising products, where I had to analyze the product and see what works well and what does not work on the Russian market. The whole task was set inside one sentence, and from that sentence, you had to work out your goals, objectives, methodology, approach, solicit advice, gather information, analyze, make recommendations, and draw conclusions. That was my primary responsibility,

but Google has a concept called "20% project," where you need to spend 20% of your time on other projects. For me, it was a project where I hosted charitable accounts of the Russian state, which were involved in informing people about CoVid-19 as well as vaccination. I worked with multi-million dollar budgets, which I distributed for advertising campaigns. As a result, people got more information about CoVid-19 and the possibilities of vaccination in Russia.

### Part Three: Objective

- Could you tell us how you got a full-time job offer at Google?

- I was looking forward to this offer in the future. I thought it would come sometime in April or May, but it came very early, in October. In general, this is done in such a way that you receive Mid Point Evaluation and Final Evaluation during your internship. Based on the Final Evaluation, it is decided whether to offer a job or not. At the end of September, I received a letter from a recruiter about the possibility of converting my internship into employment and that I should expect her to write in a month. One month later,

I got a letter in which she congratulated me on my job offer and on starting work in September 2022. I'm planning to move to Dublin at the end of next summer and work from the head office.

- Final question: could you please give three pieces of life advice for current and future KIMEP students?

- I would say that the very first thing is always to say yes when you have some opportunity to do something great, to participate in some project, no matter how good you are at something or whether there is a huge chance of success or not. Say yes and try to participate, because you will always have a good experience. Secondly, always do your homework! It is not only about learning, but "doing homework" is about always being prepared. Third, always be open-minded, do not be cynical, and be kind, because one thing I learned at Google is that it does not matter much what you do. What matters is who you are and what kind of person you are, because they recruit based on "fitness", how compatible you are with the culture of the company.

- Thank you for the interview!

- Thank you.

# The spirit of youth in the student dormitory



Written by  
Ailana Alimkhanova

Location:	KIMEP Student Dormitory
Students:	150-200
Floors:	5
Amenities:	computer lab, 4 study and TV rooms, 1 canteen.
Level of the positivity:	100%
Unforgettable days:	all of them

### Secret #1: Lab & Study Room

One of the main questions: How to have time to study and live your best student youth? The answer is there! Collaboration in study rooms, discussion of homework at the same table and beneficial mutual assistance will not leave even the last soul of the company sad. One of the fun facts is that people living in a dorm often help each other with homework, projects and presentations. We are one big family. Most of the time.



### Secret #3: Gordon Ramsey on the dorm's kitchen

Some students, who preferred to study at KIMEP University, not at the Royal Academy of Culinary Arts, cook their masterpieces in the kitchens in the dormitory. The fire burns in the pans, the smell of oil in the air makes you want to eat, and the passions boiling right in Hell's Kitchen nervously rest on the sidelines compared to what happens in the Dorm's kitchen. Some members of the student life may also show interest in your company and sometimes offer to have dinner or cook something at half past 11 at night. Memorable, I assure you.



Cozy evenings with guitar strings along with long conversations in TV rooms are the aesthetics of dormitory life. Let's take a look at the small world of friendship, memories and academic success in...

The dormitory.

One word, a great value.

The same affections are simmering in

kitchens, almost like in episodes of "Hell's Kitchen", and incredible film screenings are held in TV rooms, compared to Oscars or Cannes. All of this is the main inspiration for this article. I will tell you about all the secrets of the dormitory that we call "Dorm" with love and tenderness.

### Secret #2: Games & Wi-Fi

Let's dispel one of the main myths - is it possible to play computer games in a computer laboratory? Get ready, future cybersport stars, hold on to your hat. To the disappointment of all Overwatch and Dota fans, playing in the lab is prohibited. However, there is an alternative solution: fun in the TV rooms, PS consoles and fun company of fellow students will not leave you bored.

Trust me.

Meanwhile, the Wi-Fi is not good compared to residents there, so be patient, use a computer lab & study room or pray for the Internet. Additionally, the Internet will fly by the end of the year, so we will have it as a Christmas present!



### Secret #4: Everyone has everything

- Do you have a Christmas tree?  
- Yes, of course, room #211.

To be honest, it is a real conversation from a WhatsApp group. If you need some medicine, pans or cheese - ask the dorm's residents.

At any time of the day, 24/7 someone has what exactly you need - almost like Google, but only with real requests. This is the main advantage of living in a dormitory. Ohana means family, "who has potatoes?" means you will have potatoes delivered to your room.

Do not be afraid to show yourself, because everything that happens in the dorm remains in the dorm.

Perhaps not my words.





# OFFLINE MODE: OLDIES VS. ROOKIES

The COVID-19 pandemic times differentiated college experiences one could get at KIMEP University. This mode of studying is nothing new for some generations about the study mode; a year of offline education filled up with campus fun and followed by almost two years of online education resulting in total social distancing and home quarantine. Therefore, coming back offline did not change much for them. The most relevant generation is ID 2018, senior students at KIMEP University, and there are those KIMEP students who started online and are coming to the campus for the very first time. It is a whole new experience getting to know the people, friends, student life and most importantly the campus itself. The most recent ones are ID 2021, the youngest students in university. Although, one thing definitely makes a big difference among these two groups of students and that would be the values and thoughts of our university.

For some students of ID 2018, the values associated with KIMEP are the “old Valikhanov Building” that was under construction until now and the big halls in the “pregnant” building whereas these new changes are just normal for freshies. Also, the super crowded events at campus such as Orientation Day, KADA Open air, and welcome parties are a unique part of ID 2018 students. This part is slowly being introduced to ID 2021 and hopefully, will soon be a part of their student



experience and values. Nevertheless, having studied with traditional face-to-face classes for about a month now, an evident change occurred in the lives of the ID 2021 students - the generation of KIMEPians that, alongside their counterparts from ID 2020, had never managed to experience the best of student life before and were forced to begin their journeys at KIMEP not in lecture halls and study rooms, but in front of their computers at home.

Declaring that offline classes would start on October 25, however, changed the game, and taking first steps on campus was similar to the first day of school - an absolutely new and unknown chapter in life, saturated with new perspectives, difficulties, emotions, and people. Most students met their instructors and classmates for the first time in real life - the people that they had seen solely through a computer screen. Comments like “Hey, you are that guy with cool background images in Zoom?” or “I thought you were shorter in real life.” are heard more often on campus (and perhaps for the first time ever). In fact, in our

brief questionnaire regarding the differences between online and offline formats, many freshmen indicated that face-to-face classes are better for interaction and communication with professors and other students; that they tend to reduce procrastination and increase their productivity levels, and overall, change the attitude towards education in the positive direction.

Waking up 5 minutes prior to classes or joining the lectures while casually cruising down Al-Farabi is not possible anymore, as traditional classes require more hard work and dedication. Even the sudden transition to offline mode was an escape from our comfort zone to some extent, and thus, getting acclimated thoroughly for newcomers is the key. The new environment requires finding more efficient methods of studying and preparing for exams,

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Azamat Kinzhitayev  
Zevar Mamadjonova



getting involved in extracurricular activities, building respectful relationships with surrounding people, visiting the long-awaited parties, partaking in competitions to get the best out of student years, and most importantly, establishing a healthy study-(work)-life balance to not get lost in the middle of all the hustle and bustle. It is also essential to learn to be stress-resistant because today’s midterms and finals would most likely become nothing in comparison with the workload and responsibilities that you would have in the foreseeable future after graduation, so the earlier you start, the better it will be when seeking to build a successful career or business.

Written by  
Auyezov Ramazan



# KIMEP Campus quality overview

Have you ever wondered about KIMEP’s courtyard? Does it look nice to you? Is it designed in the way that is best for the students? Let’s try to answer these questions and assess the quality of our campus from a professional, rather than a subjective point of view. Urbanism is the area of knowledge that can be helpful in that case, as it studies the interaction of people and the built environment in urban areas. ALTO - a new KIMEP student organization dedicated to studying and sharing knowledge about urbanism - conducted its first small-scale research about the KIMEP courtyard using a specific tool of analysis called Twelve Quality Criteria. Here are the results of our research.

## Enjoyment Protection

Scale Protection against traffic

It is fair to say that the KIMEP campus is great at maintaining human scale - the buildings are not too tall, the courtyard is not too big, there are no huge empty spaces that negatively affect people psychologically and physically. Well-deserved 2/2.

Students can walk around the KIMEP courtyard safe from the outside traffic, and the traffic within the campus is insignificant; therefore KIMEP campus receives 2/2 in terms of protection against traffic.

Protection against unpleasant sensory effects

Unpleasant sensory effects include outside noise, dust, rain, strong sun, etc. University buildings around the campus provide some level of protection of the inside territory from noise, dust, and other forms of pollution associated with intensive traffic on Abay and Dostyk streets. On the other hand, the main source of protection from natural factors such as rain, wind, and strong sun are the same buildings, and there are no arbors or pergolas to remain in the courtyard in comfortable conditions regardless of the weather. Trees provide some protection, yet they cover only a part of the courtyard territory. Overall, the score of 1/2 for this category.

Positive aspects of climate

It is easy and comfortable to enjoy the weather on the campus when it is good - walking, sitting, and standing in the courtyard during the warm autumn day is a beautiful and memorable experience. 2/2.

Aesthetic qualities and positive sensory experiences

From the aesthetic perspective, the design of the courtyard is great, as it includes both diversity and order in terms of shapes, colors, forms, and types of greenery. The South-West corner of the courtyard next to the Valikhanov building entrance deserves special praise in that regard - beautiful willow and a flower garden underneath it look and feel great. On the other hand, the new design of the Valikhanov building that shifts even further from indisputably charming and prized Dostyk building is questionable. The same can be said about the New Building. Moreover, the quality of benches in the same part of the courtyard opposite the dorm is rather low, and the materials used look cheap and unattractive. Overall, 1/2 for aesthetic qualities and positive sensory experiences, as undeniably magnificent greenery design and placement in the courtyard are sometimes disrupted by the questionable intrusion of modernity and use of cheaper materials.

Protection against crime

Finally, the territory of the campus seems to be perceived as safe against crime, as it is well-lit, actively used, monitored, and protected from outsiders to some extent. 2/2 for protection against harm by others.

Overall, a score of 5/6 in terms of protection - the courtyard is rather safe.

KIMEP courtyard receives 5/6 in terms of enjoyment.

Written by  
Sanat Koshen



# How He Met My Mother or a story of my family and KIMEP

Students always have quite different stories about how they ended up at KIMEP. I am sure that the vast majority of them decided their fate during their last year of school, just months before our campus gets filled with freshmen and their wide-open eyes. I bet every one of us has a friend who, “wanted to study abroad but stayed in Kazakhstan, and KIMEP was the only option”.

**My story is quite different. Frankly, it began before I was even born.**

The year was 1996. After completing his bachelor’s degree in physics at Kazakh National University, one aspiring specialist decided to enroll in the MBA program at KIMEP. Aged 23, he became a graduate student quite late, since his bachelor degree took six years. Because there were no bachelor programs at KIMEP, every student already had some experience in life. The government expected a lot from this cohort of KIMEPians. Four years prior, Nursultan Nazarbayev himself personally asked Dr. Chan Young Bang to open and supervise the first western-style university in Kazakhstan. The goal was to prepare the first generation of Kazakhstani Professionals to lead the country.

After graduating from KIMEP,

our protagonist starts a relationship with a young specialist from the Admission and Recruitment office, whom he met during his studies. The wedding ceremony took place on October 24th, 1999 and marked the start of a new family.

**Nine months later, I was born.**

From the very first days, our campus has been a special place for me. I attended my first New Year celebration at the age of three. I celebrated every Nauryz, swinging on altybakan and eating pilaf. I still remember my first English classes in the New Academic Building when I was twelve. KIMEP was growing, and I was growing along with it. All these happy moments took place on our campus long before I was among these eyes-wide-open-can’t-find-any-study-hall freshmen. The only difference between us was the fact that I already knew every corner of each building. So does my little sister, who enrolled in KIMEP this year.

And all those days I spent on our campus, before and during my golden years as a student, I was always feeling myself as a part of a family. Not only my own, but also this big, complicated family of thousands of students, hundreds of administration staff and faculty. And I am sure that my mom, dad and even my freshman sister feel

the same way. Obviously, you would think, it is much easier for my mom and sister, since they spend every day in KIMEP. My mom has worked at KIMEP longer than I am alive, and she has won numerous annual awards for the best staff member. For most of my friends, finding out that she is my mother is always a shock, nevertheless, always a pleasant one. My sister is already one of the most active representatives of ID2021, be it in studies or extracurricular activities. But what about my dad?

**He is a pretty frequent guest on our campus, I have to say.**

His alumni story is quite remarkable. After completing his MBA degree, he taught at the Evening MBA program (which is now known as an Executive MBA) in KIMEP. And there he was hunted by his own two students, who worked at the ABN Amro at a time. Landing a job at one of the biggest banks of Europe was a dream come true. Later, it was acquired by the Royal Bank of Scotland, from which he was hunted straight to one of the biggest local banks, where he currently is a deputy chief.

Because of such high achievements, KIMEP still keeps in touch with him very actively. For instance, at the Graduation Ceremony 2018, he was asked to deliver a speech as a representative of 1998 graduates, 20 years later after their own ceremony. He also delivered a lecture as a part of the Leadership Development Program, which is an honor given only to the best of the best of Kazakhstani business sphere. Even 23 years after his graduation from KIMEP, he still is an active member of our community.

That is a story of my connection to our alma mater. It is the type of connection in which one is born into. Even though this year is my final here, these corridors, alleys and halls will always occupy a room in my heart. I hope that about 20 years later, another student could share a similar story. These walls have been silent witnesses to a myriad of stories. I wish that the third generation of our family will walk past them as well.

Peace out, hmbres!



Comfort

Mobility

Walking around the courtyard of KIMEP is a pleasant thing, as the view is good, walkways are comfortable and diverse, there is always some well-maintained greenery, and the territory is not difficult to navigate. On the other hand, for people with reduced mobility, some parts of the campus territory are either hardly accessible or inaccessible at all. Moreover, with the existing gate system, it is virtually impossible to get a wheelchair through. Therefore, a score of 1/2 is justified in that case.

Sitting

There are plenty of sitting options available on the campus courtyard, however, the level of comfort varies greatly across those. Not all benches have backs, some of them look and feel less comfortable than others, there are no movable chairs, and there is literally only one bench with a table next to it within the whole courtyard. It would be great to see the level of sitting comfort increase in the future. 1/2 for this category.

Standing and lingering

Unfortunately, there are almost no options in the courtyard to stand comfortably while leaning on something and observing a particularly interesting view - 0/2. This is a common thing for many local public and private spaces, as the designers understand the importance of sitting, but the same still cannot be said about standing.

Seeing

People love watching something interesting as we crave mental stimuli, especially natural phenomena and other people. At the moment it is somewhat interesting to sit and watch the territory of the courtyard, but it is difficult to imagine that it can retain one’s attention for long. There are no outside cafes or playgrounds to concentrate a big amount of people in one place, nor are there any particularly interesting natural phenomena to watch or listen to, such as the water flow in the fountains. Therefore, while it is nice to look at the KIMEP courtyard, it is not something to enjoy for an extended period of time - 1/2.

Talking and listening/hearing

It is not difficult to have a conversation with others while walking, sitting, or standing on the territory of the campus, outside noises do not interfere much, other people are not too close. 2/2 for this criteria. Yet, the introduction of more enclosed spaces like arbors could make this experience even better.

Playing, exercising, other activities

While there are several options for those who practice sports outside - football, basketball, and workout area - there are fewer opportunities for more casual activities. In that regard, KIMEP can learn from such public places as Terrenkur and Almaly, with the variety of activities for different ages present there. One of the easiest, cheapest, and most effective ways of improving the experience of people in terms of casual activities is the placement of different swings (for 1 person, for 2 people, bigger and smaller ones, etc.). This works perfectly for many public places in Almaty and entertains people of different ages. 1/2 for outside activity comfort.

6/12 regarding the comfort of the courtyard - the worst-performing category within the list.

Overall, the score of 16/24 is a great one, KIMEP’s courtyard easily outperforms many public spaces of the city. The only category that significantly lags behind is Comfort, yet the changes needed are not colossal. However, we hope that this article can also encourage students, staff, and administration to pay more attention to their surroundings and be aware of

both the good and bad sides of our environments, as all of us are the main beneficiaries of conditions that are created around us. Let’s not forget that we can directly shape our environments, and university design is a good stepping-stone to start with. Be always aware of your surroundings and your power to affect them, until next time!





Written by  
Zevar Mamadjonova  
Valerie Tsoy

## Sport Competitions in KIMEP

### Football

The most recent one, the Football competition, was organized by the KASD (KIMEP Association of Sport Development) for students in Almaty schools on November 14th. There were students from different universities including KIMEPians competing with the teams for the prize of 100,000 tenge for first place. The football team from Deutsch

Kasachische Universitat won first place and subsequently, received the monetary prize. The second place players were a team from Suleyman Demirel University, and finally the third place was achieved by our students, a team of ID20 and ID21. Overall the event was memorable with lots of fun and meeting new people.



### PingPong

On the 6th of November the annual President's Cup Ping Pong Challenge was organized by KIMEP's Sport Center. This time due to COVID-19 restrictions, only KIMEP students could register and participate in the event within a limit of 45 participants in total among both girls and boys. With this small number of participants the game rules were a bit different. For example, the girls competed in best of three games, with two wins to pass to the semifinal. There were different nationalities participating including exchange and

international students from different IDs. There were monetary prizes assigned for each place and there were three winners in each category: girls and boys. The gold medalists received a prize of 100,000 tenge, silver received 50,000 tenge and the bronze received 30,000 tenge. Aside from the prize, it was an enjoyable environment full of communication, making new friends, food and supporting winners. Last but not least, such events motivate students to play, win and stay healthy particularly in these hard pandemic times.

### Chess

"And there are only you and 64 squares on the chessboard."

KIMEP has been holding chess championships within its walls for more than five years, and the 2021 tournament was no exception, despite the pandemic.

It is worth noting the punctuality of the players, the majority came before the start, and they had time to arrange a friendly sparring. There were 25 participants in this competition.

At the very beginning, the judges and organizers announced the rules for all the participants who came up, held a draw. And then everyone found their table, shook hands, and sat down to play.

There is an opinion that the first move is advantageous, and many support the idea that those who play with the White pieces win more often. The time clicked on the clock, and the players began the game.

It should be noted that the atmosphere among the players was friendly and a relaxed rivalry reigned among each pair of players and in the hall as a whole. Throughout the game, only the skill of the players was heard as the sounds of chess pieces could be heard moving around the boards- to decide victory or defeat.

But like any game that ended, the queen and the pawn fell

into one box, and the two that were playing stood up and shook hands, thereby thanks for the game and the experience gained.

There were three winners among the males, and the same number of winners among the females.

The first place among the guys was the score: 7.0 - 31.5 - 31.50 - 28.0.

The first place among the guys was the score: 5.0 - 32.0 - 19.00 - 22.0.

Those who, according to the points, did not take prizes, were given certificates as gratitude for participating in the competition.



## Trash fleet on the Kazakhstan steppes

An unusual and interesting environmental campaign was held in Kazakhstan this summer. Activists created rafts from the collected garbage and set sail on them on the Ili River. The action aimed to draw attention to the problem of pollution of nature by household waste. The campaign resulted in more than 50 publications in the

media, three detailed videos on national and interstate TV, and more than 70,000 followers on social networks. The author of the idea of this project is Arina Lazareva, a KIMEP student. She will tell us more about this project.

#### How are ideas generated?

Last year, I did my homework on the problem of plastic pollution in the ocean. While looking through the Internet for information on the subject, I saw an unusual picture - a raft made of rubbish in the middle of the ocean. It was an illustration of "The Swimming Cities of Serenissima". A group of street artists from the USA created rafts out of the trash and travelled on them. They had concerts, puppet shows and theatrical performances on the shore. As I understood it, the rubbish rafts were symbols of freedom of creative expression and a protest

- almost any popular place of people's outdoor recreation often looks like a common garbage dump. I thought that rafts made of rubbish are a great symbol of the absurdity of finding rubbish in nature. It should draw public attention to the problem and therefore help to solve it. In this way, rafts made of rubbish would fight the rubbish itself.

#### How dreams come true

I shared my idea with the guys from "Two Wings". It's a social organisation where I used to volunteer. They liked the idea. Together we drew up a plan for



against the bourgeois consumer society. To be honest, the idea of travelling on a raft really appealed to me. It was the height of the pandemic - despite the great weather, everyone was on self-isolation. Everyone was so hungry for freedom and travel!

It seemed to me that this idea could be used. Everyone who does outdoors travel in Kazakhstan will agree that the problem of pollution of the natural landscape by household rubbish is very topical. For example, Alma-Arasan gorge, Butakovka, Kolsay lakes, the coast of Kapchagay, Ili, Balkhash

the Ili River swim and a budget for the project. By the way, I also came up with the name of the project, "Trash Fleet". In spring, our project received a grant from the Eurasia Foundation within the framework of the USAID-funded Social Innovation in Central Asia program. An idea conceived during homework on ocean pollution had the opportunity to become a real environmental project on the Ili River.

#### Work time

The project had already started in the spring. We went out several times to the suburbs of Almaty to collect rubbish. It was not a problem to find it. I had the feeling that the whole area outside the city was littered. Of course, cellophane and plastic bottles were the most common. We also found a lot of old rags, crates, and broken furniture. We sorted all the rubbish we collected. First of all, we selected what could be useful for building rafts, such as boards, styrofoam and plastic bottles with lids. We recycled crumpled plastic and cardboard. A similar fate awaited the rest of our collection.

At the same time, we started to think about how to build rafts. In the beginning, we wanted to make a floating base for the rafts out of cellophane bags stuffed with plastic bottles. After a few experiments, this idea was rejected. As a result, we used 200-litre metal barrels found in a landfill for the rafts' base. For the safety of the team, planks for the frame and deck of the raft were purchased. Therefore, it is safe to say that "the rafts are made using rubbish".

#### Departure

The sailing took place in difficult natural conditions. Towards the end of the first day a strong headwind began to blow. It was very difficult for the rafts to navigate. There were times when the rafts would not move despite the flow of the river. The rafts were very sluggish and difficult to pilot. The team members had to row all the time. Due to excessive enthusiasm and inexperience, several oars were broken.

The environmental situation



on the Ili River shocked activists. There was a lot of rubbish. It was almost everywhere near fishermen and tourists' campsites. The activists studied the morphology of the waste, recorded the largest accumulations of rubbish, and interviewed tourists and local residents. In places where activists had to stay overnight, they picked up all the rubbish and took it away with them on rafts. They also made a lot of photo and video content.

In the evenings, however, the activists had a great time: a campfire, good food, conversation and songs with a guitar. The activists shared their ecological knowledge and exchanged experiences of working in nature. Of course, they talked about what to do to clean the river banks from rubbish.



#### Results

In just four days, the travelers covered about 80 kilometers. They collected and removed 27 bags of waste. They witnessed the severity of a household waste problem. But the main achievement of the project was the public attention it attracted. More than 50 articles were published about the Trash Fleet project in the media and on the web. Two video spots were broadcast on national television and one on an international TV channel. Publications about the project reached an audience of 70,000 people on social networks. In addition to the Eurasia Foundation, the project was also supported by RG Brands and the Association of Ecological Organizations of Kazakhstan, which is headed by Aliya Nazarbayeva.

For me, Trash Fleet was my first big community project. For the first time, I was the author of a great, working idea that brings public benefit. In addition, I was involved in all stages of project preparation and acquired great experience. Now I'm thinking about how to get people to change. I really want to teach people to think and act responsibly towards nature. In my spare time, I am working on a

project called "Take Your Litter With You." I plan to involve KIMEP students in its implementation. I think many of them will support my initiative. Luckily, the topic of ecology is very relevant right now. Some of our students are striving to minimize their consumption and waste, and participate in environmental actions. This is great! It gives hope that it is our generation that will make the planet clean again!

Written by  
Arina Lazareva





## Poems

**Timur Bekeyev**

Волшебное поле

• • •

У меня есть волшебное поле,  
Я его никогда не продам.  
По нему я летаю  
Как облако,  
В нем построю свой Notre Dame.

Эх, колосья мне ноги щекочат,  
Я бегу и смеюсь на бегу:  
Все равно, что колосья щекочат,  
Все равно, что слова повторю.

Просто лечь на волшебном поле  
Лучше, чем там устроить привал.  
Для меня это поле - волшебное,  
Я его никогда не предам.

А рассветы на нем ярче солнца,  
В нем я вижу улыбку твою.  
Я не знаю тебя, лучик солнца,  
Все равно, что слова повторю.

Познакомимся с тобой не на поле,  
Ведь оно лишь мое, ты пойми.  
Но когда-нибудь

• • •

Покинем мы море.  
Мое поле.  
Пожалуйста,  
Прими.

• • •

А у нас есть волшебное поле.  
В нем построим свою страну.  
По нему мы летим,  
словно облако,  
Не покажем его никому.

**Magzhan Atirkhan**

• • •

I remember studying so hard to get the best possible grade,  
I remember how easily I found people who I can call my best mate,  
And how fast I learned to present myself and debate  
without any hate.

I remember being in Starbucks  
drinking my favorite strawberry tea due to the outside cold,  
I remember being late for every class  
just to have another five minutes of sleep, we were so bold.  
I remember listening to the Kuji podcast on my way and back,  
Even though several undone assignments had my attention lack.  
I remember the incredible odor of fresh air after the exam is done,  
But my favorite memory's yet to come.

**Aisha Meirbek**

“Confess to Teacher”

• • •

Just wanna say that love your classes,  
Love your lesson and how it passes.  
I don't expect something good or cool,  
I expect something bored as in school.  
Because how writing can be funny?  
And how not to be sad while study?

I thought I would die of big fatigue  
If taking these courses.  
Because I'm not in the gold league  
Of students, that dunni what is forces  
Or forcing yourself to learn  
And mentally be in the burn.  
Because I never was good at essays.  
That's why I feel in heart grazes  
When I'm rewriting,  
Hardly trying  
And somehow crying.

Just thank you for inspiration,  
And for given salvation.  
Now I gained wings,  
And expect new wins  
In everything,  
Even in midterm spring.

Scan this QR code  
for more poems



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times@kimep.kz

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