PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE WORLD OF WORK: WHAT UNIVERSITIES AND BUSINESSES CAN DO TO IMPROVE WORKPLACE READINESS

SEE INTO THE FUTURE: SKILLS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY: SPEAKERS’ BIOGRAPHIES

Helen Silvester, Director Education Wider Europe, British Council

Helen Silvester is the British Council's Director of Education for Wider Europe, leading the British Council's work in education across 15 countries in East and South Europe. Her achievements include creating the British Council UK-Turkey Higher Education and Industry Partnership Programme, which set up 21 new partnerships between Turkish and UK universities and industry partners, and developing the SEE Into the Future initiative, which engages people from the UK and the region to share perspectives and learning on skills, entrepreneurship and employment. She is passionate about the value of international experience and in the UK, commissioned a major report, 'Next Generation UK', on the attitudes and experiences of UK students to international engagement. She further represented the British Council on a Department of Business, Innovation, and Skills expert group on student mobility. She has a Master's Degree in Education with Distinction from the University of Leeds.

Dr. Yuri Loktionov, Vice-Rector for Graduate and International Programs, Kazakh-British Technical University

Yuri Loktionov is Vice-Rector for Graduate and International Programs at Kazakh-British Technical University (KBTU), where he previously was Dean of Business School from May 2013. He is also President of the Advisory Council for the Institute of Petroleum Engineering and IT, a commercial subsidiary of KBTU that specializes in IT, economic and management consulting as well as on O&G executive training. Prior to joining KBTU, he was Assistant Professor at the University of Southern California (Los Angeles) from 2009 until 2013. During this period he was frequently asked to speak at international conferences, appearing at multiple events in Singapore, New York, Hong Kong, London and Luxembourg, among others. He received his Ph.D. in Management from the MIT Sloan School of Management, with a specialization in Economics, Finance and Accounting. He also has an M.S. in Finance from Boston College.
Professor John Board, Dean of Henley Business School, University of Reading

John Board has been Dean of the Henley Business School since October 2010. Before that he was Director of the ICMA Centre at the University of Reading which he joined after being on the faculty at the London School of Economics. His recent research has focused on the organisation and regulation of financial markets. Some of this work has been based on large scale analyses of trading data, while other parts have considered more general issues of the effects of market fragmentation as well as the various scandals and crises in financial markets. As a result of this work, he has been widely published in books, academic and professional journals, as well as radio and television. He has acted as consultant to many UK and overseas markets, regulatory organisations and trade bodies. These include the House of Commons, the Financial Services Authority, the City of London Corporation and the European Commission. He also has an interest in the development of Islamic Finance, on which he has recently acted as consultant on a major project on Islamic market developments around the world.

Professor Yelena Kalyuzhnova, Associate Dean (International) and Director of the Centre for Euro-Asian Studies, Henley Business School, University of Reading

After working as an Economic Adviser to the President of Kazakhstan, Professor Yelena Kalyuzhnova founded and remains the Director of the Centre for Euro-Asian Studies at the University of Reading. She is an authoritative expert on the economics of energy and transition economies. She is the author of the first English-language book on the Kazakhstani economy, two research monographs, as well as a range of academic papers on economic issues. She is also an editor of four interdisciplinary books on a range of topics. She is actively involved in collaboration with some of the world’s largest companies, including BG Group, Burren Energy, ChevronTexaco, and Shell, as well as international organisations such as UNECE, the World Bank, the IMF and the EBRD. She has contributed to numerous economic studies for organisations such as the World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations and UNDP, among others, and is a frequent speaker at international conferences. Within the UK government, she served as an economic adviser on Caspian issues to the Rt. Hon. Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, Q.C., House of Lords as well as the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Kazakhstan, House of Commons. (2007-2010). She now serves as Vice Dean of Henley Business School. She is also visiting research fellow at the Oxford Institute of Energy Economics.
Sue Bennett, Director, Student Careers and Skills, University of Warwick

Sue Bennett has worked at the University of Warwick for eight years, initially as Director of the Learning and Development Centre, and since May 2009 as Director of Student Careers and Skills. Prior to that, she had a varied career in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. She is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (FCIPD), and holds a BA (Hons). She is an active member of the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS), and serves on its Research Group, and the Training and Development Group. AGCAS is the international professional membership body for careers and employability professionals working with higher education students and graduates. Her task when coming into her current post in May 2009 was to integrate a number of scattered units into one Centre under a unified strategic vision. Some services were high quality but with limited student reach whilst others were sub-standard or absent. She has built a sector-leading, high-performing Centre, aligned to the University’s strategy and the Government’s agenda, with the needs of students and employers at its heart.

David Mashuri, Partner and Country Manager of WE Partners Kazakhstan

David Mashuri is Partner and Country Manager of WE Partners Kazakhstan, an alliance of Korn Ferry. A senior Executive Search professional, David Mashuri brings more than 16 years of international experience in higher education, real estate, government and private sector consulting and last 7 years in Executive Search in Kazakhstan and the CIS region. He has particular knowledge of FMCG, Pharmaceuticals, IT/Telco, Banking & Finance and Industrial business, and gained his expertise in executive recruitment, coaching, training and facilitation for these sectors. David Mashuri holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy from Pepperdine University in Malibu, CA, USA and a Bachelor's Degree in Linguistics from Russian People's Friendship University in Moscow, Russia. In addition to his degrees, David Mashuri has completed certificate programs in HR at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. He is a certified Executive Coach, a member of the ICF, holds a Coaching certificate from Erickson International, and is a certified in Decision Dynamics Decision Style Model assessment (Lund, Sweden).
Dr. Steven Maggs, Principal Teaching Fellow, Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG)

Dr. Steven Maggs, FIMMM, PhD, BEng, is a Principal Teaching Fellow who joined WMG at the University of Warwick in 1999 after a number of years in industry. He completed a Technician Apprenticeship with the UK Ministry of Defence after leaving school, and worked for some time as a Professional and Technological Officer. He then studied BEng Metallurgy at Leeds University where he stayed to study for an industrially-sponsored PhD examining casting defects in commercial aluminium alloys. He worked as a Development Metallurgist for Alcan and then an Armour and Material Technologist for Alvis Vehicles. When he joined WMG he created training programmes around CADCAM and then moved onto the undergraduate team teaching Materials, Manufacturing and CADCAM. He has tutored on UK, industrial and international programmes at Undergraduate and Master’s level and has supervised a number of doctoral students. He is Deputy Director of the innovative Applied Engineering Programme which delivers part-time undergraduate degrees for industrial partners such as Jaguar-Landrover and Network Rail and Rolls Royce. Steve was involved in the setting up the WMG Academy for Young Engineers, which is a University Technical College for 14 to 18 year olds. He is now one of the Governors of the academy, and is helping to set up a second WMG Academy for Young Engineers in Solihull, Birmingham.

Kuat Dombay, HR Director, Kazkommertsbank

For more than 12 years Kuat led corporate communications units in companies of oil and gas (Karachaganak Petroleum Operating KPO B.V., 2001-2004); mobile (GSM Kazakhstan – Kcell 2004-2008) and financial (HSBC Bank Kazakhstan 2001-2013, Development bank of Kazakhstan - 2013) sectors. During the crisis in 2008-2010 he was appointed the President of Shakhar TV and radio company (HIT TV national music channel, Energy FM 102/2 radio station). From 1994 to 2001 Kuat Dombay served as a career diplomat of the RK Foreign Ministry and worked for the RK embassies in the South Korea, India and UK. He graduated from London Institute of Management (2003-2005) and Madrid Royal Diplomatic Academy (1995-1996). In 2013-2014 Kuat Dombay worked as the Director for development of Nazarbayev University Fund and as an advisor to the Minister of Education of the RK. From June 2014 he headed the management Board Administration at BTA Bank JSC and supervised internal communications and integration processes with KazKommertsBank with regard to HR management. Since May 2015 he has been the head of the HR Management Department at KazKommertsBank JSC. Kuat is the author of the books “PR as Simple as It Is “ (business bestseller of 2009 in Kazakhstan) and “Abyroy Management: Reputation Management” (2013) about managing organizational changes and corporate culture.
Roger Holland, CEO, Scot Holland CBRE

Roger Holland arrived in Kazakhstan in October 1994 and engaged in a number of entrepreneurial activities in his early years in the country. In 1997 he started his property business Scot Holland Estates, finding apartments and houses for the growing number of expatriates from International companies coming to work in the country at that time. The company expanded its range of services in line with demand as the economy grew and property development boomed. This culminated in the company’s official affiliation to CB Richard Ellis (CBRE), the global number 1 in property brokerage and consultancy, at the beginning of 2007. Scot Holland / CBRE has 3 offices in Kazakhstan, employs more than 50 dedicated staff and covers the 8 countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus. Service lines include: residential rental and sales, office agency, valuations, strategic consulting, retail advisory and brokerage, property and project management, building consultancy and capital markets. Roger was a President of The International Business Chamber of Kazakhstan, and one of the founding members of Amcham, the American Chamber of Commerce, of which he was a Board Director for three years. He has also served on the Board of Eurobak, the European Business Association of Kazakhstan. He was on the Advisory Board of the Kazakhstan International School (KIS) for two years, and is currently engaged on the KIMEP Business Advisory Council. An active member of the community, he is personally involved in a number of charitable projects. He has spoken several times at International property conferences and is often invited to speak on leadership, management and entrepreneurship at local universities. He is the Chairman of the British Business Group in Almaty and organizes regular meetings on behalf of the British Embassy. He has a BSc in Accountancy & Statistics from the University of Southampton.

Dr. Ewan Simpson, Dean of Business School, Kazakh-British Technical University

Currently the Dean of Business and Director of the Kazakh-British Competitiveness Centre at the Kazakh British Technical University, Ewan is a Scots-born and PhD-educated higher education management professional, researcher, consultant and faculty focused on developing effective, relevant education systems. Additional research interests cover the strategic management and finance of the oil and gas industry, economic diversification, entrepreneurship and innovation. Previous roles include service as Vice President of Planning and Development KIMEP University in Kazakhstan and as a Research Fellow at the University of Glasgow in Scotland, where research was focused on urban economic development, entrepreneurship, innovation and the growth of the knowledge-based economy. As Dean of the Business School, Ewan is heavily focused on developing entrepreneurial attitudes among the student population to help them develop a competitive advantage in the world after university.
Aat Hoorn, Senior Lecturer of Kazakhstan Maritime Academy, Kazakh – British Technical University and Senior Project manager of STC Group

Currently the Senior Lecturer of Kazakhstan Maritime Academy at the Kazakh British Technical University and the Senior Project manager at STC Group. Working in department Innovation, Research and Development; developing educational appliances, lecturing in a broad range of technical subjects such as propulsion systems, thermodynamics as well as safety and environmental issues, in the Netherlands as well as abroad, reference is made to the Annex. Specific subject of expertise is propulsion engines in combination with Marpol Annex VI. Keeping up to date by means of intensive contact with the marine industry, conferences, seminars and short internships.

Ruslan Yegembayev, CEO, mobiliuz.com

Ruslan Yegembayev is a serial entrepreneur inspired by high-tech and the internet of things in particular. He is currently focused on developing his own connected cars platform - mobiliuz.com. He also advises venture investors and high-tech startups. Previously Ruslan was active in developing the startup community in Kazakhstan: he took part in setting up the first incubator in Almaty - the Farm - which became an investment vehicle focused on IT projects in Central, South and South East Asia; started up the first internet startup accelerator program in Central Asia; co-managed the first rating of internet companies in Kazakhstan, organised by Forbes Kazakhstan; and participated in a number of other initiatives. Before that Ruslan built traction as an executive investment professional, with 13 years investment advisory and management experience. He managed or otherwise took an active part in a number of large projects (M&As, LBOs, turnarounds, eurobonds / domestic bonds issues) across a range of industries in 14 countries. He advised companies on strategy and corporate development; including the establishment of management accounting and business reporting systems. Ruslan has seven years of academic experience and he also set up the first online education programme in Central Asia, in 2001, at KIMEP. Ruslan is currently serving as Entrepreneur in Residence at KBTU Business School.
Stephen Lin, Director for Entrepreneurship, Kazakh – British Technical University

Stephen has worked in multiple emerging markets, ranging across industries such as finance, clean technology, and entrepreneurship. After graduating from UC Berkeley, Stephen first began working in Taiwan as a stock broker for CLSA, an equities brokerage. Soon after, he started a new company in Singapore with a former client, innovating new forms of energy-efficiency finance for the ESCO industry to retrofit existing buildings. During his MBA studies at the Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California, Stephen also worked as a summer associate for UBS Global Asset Management in their Core/Value fund, researching equity investments in alternative fuels. Afterwards, he was asked to create a short presentation on investment into Kazakhstan and present to KazMunaiGas. This began his Central Asian association.

Maxim Romanov, Research Fellow, KBTU Business School

Maxim Romanov joined KBTU Business School as a Research Fellow in Energy Sector Entrepreneurship within the British Council Newton Al Farabi Henley/KBTU Centre for Competitiveness. Maxim is going to focus his research on entrepreneurship, local content and cloud computing in the energy sector value chains. Prior to joining KBTU, Maxim completed a PhD programme at the Hunter Centre for Entrepreneurship of the Strathclyde Business School in Glasgow, Scotland, where he was running research on multilevel decision making processes in entrepreneurship and teaching several courses in entrepreneurship and new venture creation. Maxim earned his EMBA in Oil and Gas and BSc in Geosciences at the Kazakh-British Technical University. He started his early career first as a geoscience engineer and later spent a few years of professional advisory practice at Ernst and Young where he was in charge of large strategy and risk advisory projects across Kazakhstan and Central Asia.