

Dr Carolyn Browne

Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan



Dr Carolyn Browne was appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2012 and took up her appointment in January 2013.

Dr Browne joined the FCO in 1985, and has served overseas in Moscow, New York, Brussels and most recently Baku as Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Prior to 1985, she was a research scientist at the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Oxford. She holds degrees from the University of Bristol (BSc Hons) and the University of Oxford (D.Phil).

She speaks Russian, French, Azerbaijani and Kazakh.

Aslanbek Amrin

Vice Minister for Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan



Aslanbek Amrin is Vice Minister for Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Born in 1982 in Smirnovo in North Kazakhstan, he graduated from M.K. Kozybayev North Kazakhstan State University with a degree in Finance and Credit and L. N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University with a degree in Geoinformation Systems.

He is an alumnus of the Bolashak State Scholarship Programme, through which he studied at the University of Illinois at Urbana – Champaign, graduating with a degree in Technology Management in 2012. Between 2012 and 2015 he was Deputy Chairman of the National Agency for Technological Development. In 2015 he became General Manager of telecoms company TIMWE International. He was made Vice Minister for Education and Science in August 2016.

Jim Buttery

Director, British Council Kazakhstan and Attaché for Education and Culture, British Embassy Astana



Jim has been working in Kazakhstan for two years. This is his fourth country directorship with the British Council: he has previously served as Director Libya, Director Israel and Director Kenya. From 2010 to 2014 he led the British Council's operations in the Middle East and North Africa as Regional Director of Programmes, where he developed the British Council's response to the 'Arab Spring'.

Jim's background is in international development and he has spent the past 25 years working in Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. He started his career in Jordan in 1990 working for a UK educational trust, and then moved into health development in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, where he led operations for a UK health charity. He joined the British Council in 1998 to lead a UK Government technical assistance programme for the Palestinian Authority and has since been posted to Tanzania, Kenya, Israel, Jordan and the UAE.

Jim is married with two grown up children and has a degree in Arabic, French and Middle Eastern Politics and postgraduate qualifications in Arabic Technical Translation and an MSc in Management of International Development.

Florence Engasser

Policy Researcher, International Innovation team, Nesta



Florence is a researcher in Nesta's International Innovation team, which examines new global trends and practices in innovation worldwide. Her work focuses on the role of innovation in developing countries. She is the programme manager for the Global Innovation Policy Accelerator, having worked with policymakers across Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru.

Prior to joining Nesta, Florence worked as a Junior Associate at 21c Consultancy, an ICT innovation firm specialised in understanding how technology can improve public services, citizen engagement and government efficiency. She holds an MSc in Urban Policy from the London School of Economics and the Institute of Political Science in Paris.

Abdilda Shamenov

President of the Alliance of Technology Commercialisation Professionals



Abdilda is President of the Alliance of Technology Commercialisation Professionals of Kazakhstan and a Regional Consultant for the OECD's Kazakhstan Innovation Policy for Competitiveness Project.

He has an MSc in Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship from Alliance Manchester Business School at the University of Manchester.

From 2012-2015 he worked at the Technology Commercialisation Project in Kazakhstan (funded by the World Bank and Ministry of Education and Science), and from 2010-2012 he worked at the Coordination Centre for the Technology Commercialisation System of the National Innovation Fund of Kazakhstan.

Dr Bruno Reynolds

Senior Consultant, Oxford University Innovation



Bruno is a life scientist by training, and has extensive experience in research, technology transfer and commercial IP management. At Oxford University Innovation Bruno mainly divides his time between providing knowledge exchange and commercialisation support for mainly UK universities and proving innovation management for companies looking to develop and exploit their intellectual property.

Additionally Bruno provides training to University staff, entrepreneurs and company managers from the UK and abroad on a range of innovation management topics.

Before joining Oxford University Innovation Bruno co-founded Triple Helix Technologies (THT), a company that manages IP and business development opportunities for life science research institutes in the greater Lisbon area. At THT, Bruno gained experience in all stages of the technology transfer process, from sourcing invention disclosures, IP and market due

diligence, patenting and licensing. Additionally, he was involved in institute wide activities, including drafting an IP policy, auditing institute IP, and sourcing funding opportunities.

Bruno has completed two postdoctoral positions, one on cancer research at the University of Oxford and the other on technology transfer at the Instituto de Tecnologia Química e Biológica (ITQB). His qualifications include a BSc from King's College London, an MSc in neuroscience at University College London, a PhD in developmental biology at Cambridge University, and an MBA from the Universidade Católica Portuguesa and Universidade Nova de Lisboa.

Aidar Zhakupov

General Director of Nazarbayev University Research and Innovation System



Aidar Zhakupov is General Director of Nazarbayev University Research and Innovation System. He graduated from the N. Bauman Moscow Higher Technical School in 1989. From 1990 to 1995 he took up postgraduate study at the Ordzhonikidze Aviation Institute, obtaining a Candidate of Technical Science Degree in 1996. From 1999 till 2000 he took a Post-Doctoral internship at Stanford University. He began his career in 1998 at the National Atomic Company KazAtomProm, and from 2003 served as Senior Manager at the National Innovation Fund.

He has also served as Project Coordinator at the Almaty Branch of Kazakhmys PLC. He was the Managing Director and member of the Board of Directors of the PARASAT National Science and Technological Holding. From 2009 till 2010 he was Vice Minister for Education and Science. From 2011 till 2016 he was Managing Director of Nazarbayev University Research and Innovation System, with responsibility for innovation, science and business development.

Professor Ian Cotton

Director of the Energy Research Beacon, University of Manchester



Professor Ian Cotton is Director of the Energy Research Beacon at The University of Manchester. He works with over 150 colleagues to deliver leading research in the areas of bioenergy, energy networks, nuclear energy, offshore renewables and energy materials.

His own research relates to equipment used on the high voltage electricity network and the use of high voltage systems within the marine and aerospace environments. Ian is based within the University of Manchester High Voltage laboratories, that have the capability to test equipment at voltages up to 2MV. He is also a Director of Arago Technology Limited, a company developing a new form of overhead line insulator that can reduce the height of overhead line systems by 30%.

Dr Yerlan Ramankulov

Director of the National Centre for Biotechnology



Yerlan Ramankulov graduated from the biological faculty of M. V. Lomonosov Moscow State University in 1991 and from the Institute of Molecular Genetics of the Russian Academy of Sciences in 1993, and received his Ph.D from Texas A&M University in 2000. From 2001-2004 he led a group working on molecular diagnostics of dangerous infections at CDC of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Fort Collins, Colorado).

In 2004 he became Deputy Director General of the Biological Research Center of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Almaty. In 2005 he became General Director of the National Centre for Biotechnology. Since 2013, he has also been a Professor in the School of Science and Technology at Nazarbayev University.

Dr Ramankulov serves as Editor-in-Chief of the journal "Eurasian Journal of Applied Biotechnology", and is a member of the editorial board of the Kazakhstan magazine "Transplantology in Kazakhstan". He is a Member of the Board of Directors at the S. Seifullin Kazakh Agrotechnical University and the National Research Center for Oncology and Transplantology in Astana.

He has authored over 120 scientific publications, with a citation index 875, Hirsch index equal to 19. He is the author of 92 titles of protection for inventions in the field of biotechnology and selective breeding.

Rowan Kennedy

Deputy Director, British Council Kazakhstan



Rowan is Deputy Director of the British Council in Kazakhstan, responsible for managing programmes in education, science, English language teaching and assessment, and social development.

Rowan joined the British Council in September 2012, working in the press and communications team in London. He moved to Kazakhstan in May 2014.

Before he joined the British Council, he worked at the Department of Health and London PR Agency Portland Communications. He has a BA in French and Russian from the University of Sheffield and an MA in International Studies and Diplomacy from SOAS, University of London.

Sandra Crosbie

Business Engagement Manager, Faculty of Science and Engineering, University of Manchester



Dr Sandra Crosbie joined the University of Manchester in April 2009 and is the Business Engagement Manager for the Faculty of Science and Engineering. She is responsible for developing the University's partnerships with business, whether large multinationals or SMEs, from the UK and overseas. In 1998 she joined Philips Electronics as an Electronic Engineer designing the company's range of power MOSFET devices and in 2003 became the Business Lines Product Development Manager, with responsibility for the release of the full power semiconductor range, destined for power management applications

within the portable electronics and automotive markets.

Before joining Philips, Sandra held a Lectureship with the University of Lincolnshire in Electronic Engineering and conducted research within the field of Novel Organic/Inorganic Photovoltaics. She holds a PhD in Solid State Physics and BSc (Hons) in Mathematics and Physics.

Dr Faye Taylor

Head of Programmes, University Alliance



Faye is responsible for collaborative activities in research and teaching between Alliance universities, both in the UK and abroad. This includes Doctoral Training Alliances in Biosciences, Energy and Social Policy, and the Teaching Excellence Alliance, supporting pedagogical dynamism.

Previously, Faye led national advocacy for research and innovation policy at the Alliance, working with government and sector bodies to optimize the role of universities within the UK research and innovation ecosystem.

Prior to joining University Alliance in 2014, Faye worked on knowledge exchange and researcher development policy within universities, and managed a series of programmes bridging university research with public and third sector policy at the educational charity Cumberland Lodge. Faye has a PhD in French and Italian History from the University of Nottingham, and has taught courses in European History at King's College London and Nottingham.

Dr Anuarbek Sultangazin

Chairman of the Science Fund



Anuarbek Sultangazin graduated from Karaganda State University with a degree in economics, progressing to become Doctor of Economics and Associate Professor.

He started his career in the LYCL Committee at Karaganda State University. In the 1990s, he was Deputy Head of Karaganda Administration, Head of the Karaganda Regional Financial Department, Deputy Akim (Governor) of the Karaganda region, Deputy Head of the Akmola Regional Financial Department, and Director of the Financial and HR Staff Training and Retraining Department of the Ministry of

Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

From 2000-2001, he was Deputy Chairman of the Agency on Regulation of Natural Monopolies and Competition Protection. In 2001 he became a member of the Accounts Committee for Control over Execution of the Republican Budget. In 2006 he was made Chairman of the Financial Control & Public Procurement Committee of the Ministry of Finance, and in 2007 became Executive Secretary at the Ministry. From 2008 to 2010 he was Deputy Chairman of the Arna Media National Information Holding.

From 2010–2012 He was Deputy Chairman of the National Innovation Fund, and from 2012–2013 held the same position at the National Agency for Technological Development. From 2013-2014 he supervised the activities of the analytical group in the outsourcing sector at Samruk-Kazyna Corporate University. From 2014 to 2016 he was Head of Staff at the Baiterek National Holding, and then became Advisor to the Chairman of the Kazakhstan Development Bank. He has been President of the Science Fund since September 2016, and is a holder of the Kurmet State Order of Kazakhstan.

Marat Omarov

CEO, National Agency for Technological Development JSC



Marat Omarov is CEO of the National Agency for Technological Development, the national operator of technological and innovation development in Kazakhstan.

Marat started his career as a business analyst in the IT company Digiet Limited in London. Subsequently he worked as an advisor to the Minister for Economic Development of Kazakhstan, and was Deputy Director of the Department of Tariff and Institutional policy of the Ministry of National Economy.

Prior to his current assignment, he was Managing Director of Kazakhtelecom. He has an MSc in Economics from LSE, and also completed a training program on “Innovations and Entrepreneurship” at Stanford Graduate School of Business.

Alibek Kabylbay

Managing Director of government relations

Cluster Fund “TechGarden”



Alibek graduated from Dortmund Technical University with a degree in Electrical Engineering and Renewable Energy. In 2014 he took a master’s degree in Innovation and Project Management at the Moscow School of Business.

From 2009 to 2014 he worked as an Expert at the Department of Nuclear Energy and industry, an Expert at the Department of Energy-Saving and Renewable Energy Sources, and Head of the Division of Energy-Efficient Management in the Department of New Technologies and Energy Saving of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources. He was also Deputy Director of the Department of Energy Saving and Energy Efficiency of the Ministry of Investments and Development of the RoK.

From 2013 to 2014 he was National Director of the UNDP Promotion of Energy-Efficient Lighting project, and in 2014-2016 he was Managing Director and Deputy Chairman of the Electrical Energy and Energy Saving Development Institute. Immediately before joining the Park of Innovative Technologies he was Counselor to the Minister of National Economy.

Alau Akhmetzhan

Deputy Director of the Project Management Unit, Fostering Productive Innovations Project (MOES & World Bank)



Alau has degrees from the Said Business School at Oxford University and KIMEP University.

He started his career as a Risk Manager at the Kazakhstan Development Bank. He then worked at Samruk Holding, as an inspector at the President’s Administration, as Financial Director of the Centre for Maternity and Childhood, at KazKommertz Polis Insurance, and as Director of the Service for Internal Control and Risk Management at Tau-Ken Samruk.