

NEWSLETTER

The Official Magazine of The British Chamber of Commerce in Kazakhstan. Issue April 2026



BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
IN KAZAKHSTAN

ISSUE
19



BUSINESS UPDATE

NEWSLETTER

April 2026

The Official Magazine of The British Chamber of Commerce in Kazakhstan



BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
IN KAZAKHSTAN

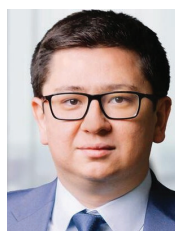
Committee Members



Chairman
Timothy Owen
*General Director
AHR Kazakhstan*



Vice Chairperson
Dinara Tanasheva
*Partner, Tax&Legal
Services
Leader for Kazakhstan
and Central Asia EY*



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Timur Omashev
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**Zhanna
Shayakhmetova**
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**Maratbek
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**Member of the
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Assylbek Jakiyev
*Kazakh O&G Associa-
tion «PetroCouncil»*

Honourary Appointments



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*British Ambassador
to Kazakhstan*



Honorary Member
Benjamin Paine
Legal Counsel



Honorary President
Lord Alderdice
*Member of the House
of Lords of the United
Kingdom*

Director
Dinara Abileva

Administrative Assistant
Addela Yu

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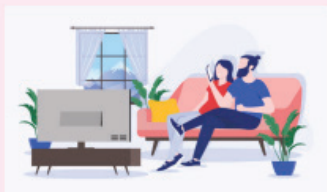
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Founding Members of British Chamber





Dear members,

As we move through the first quarter of 2026, it is a great opportunity to reflect on the strong start we have made this year and to set the tone for the months ahead.

The Chamber has entered the year with great momentum — continuing to grow its membership base, strengthen cross-sector collaboration, and deliver a dynamic programme of events across Almaty and Astana. Our recent discussions around AI, business transformation, and leadership have highlighted the importance of adaptability and innovation in today's evolving landscape.

Looking ahead, we are preparing an exciting spring calendar with a series of high-level events, industry-focused sessions, and networking opportunities designed to bring even greater value to our members.

We warmly encourage our members to take an active role in the Chamber's activities — whether by participating, speaking, hosting, or partnering with us on upcoming initiatives. Please reach out to Dinara to explore how your organisation can be involved and featured in future communications.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support. I wish you all a productive and successful start to 2026.

Timothy Owen
t.owen@ahr-kazakhstan.co.uk
The British Chamber of
Commerce in Kazakhstan



BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
IN KAZAKHSTAN

Farewell dinner in Almaty in honour of Peter Foster

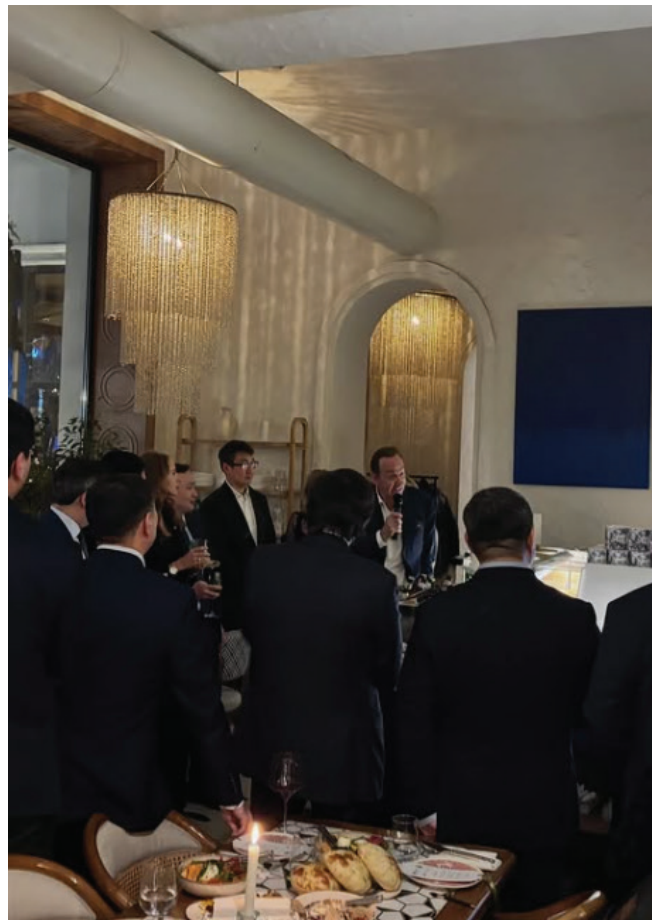
On 15 January 2026, the British Chamber of Commerce in Kazakhstan hosted a farewell dinner in Almaty in honour of Peter Foster OBE, marking the conclusion of his remarkable 20-year tenure as President and Chief Executive Officer of Air Astana.

The evening brought together distinguished guests from across the business community, including Peter Foster, Her Excellency Sally Axworthy, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Kazakhstan, as well as representatives of member companies and partners.

The event was an opportunity to recognise Peter Foster’s outstanding leadership and lasting contribution to the development of Kazakhstan’s aviation sector and wider business community.

The British Chamber of Commerce in Kazakhstan extends its sincere gratitude to Peter Foster for his exceptional service and wishes him continued success in his future endeavours.

We also thank Altai Horizons and KBTU for their support and for being valued members of the Chamber.





BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
IN KAZAKHSTAN

New Member of the British Chamber of Commerce in Kazakhstan.

The British Chamber of Commerce in Kazakhstan is pleased to welcome English Accounting House as a new member of its growing business community.

English Accounting House is an international accounting and financial services firm with UK roots, operating in Kazakhstan. The company provides a comprehensive range of professional services, including accounting, taxation, financial planning, and business consulting, supporting organisations of all sizes with reliable expertise and adherence to international standards.

The Chamber is delighted to welcome English Accounting House and looks forward to productive cooperation and their active contribution to the community.



The British Chamber of Commerce in Kazakhstan is pleased to welcome Lynks Property Management as a new member of its growing business community.

Lynks Property Management provides professional property management services, offering tailored solutions across residential and commercial real estate. The company focuses on efficient operations, asset value optimisation, and delivering high-quality service standards to property owners and tenants.

The Chamber is delighted to welcome Lynks Property Management and looks forward to their active engagement and contribution to the community.



The British Chamber of Commerce in Kazakhstan is pleased to welcome British American Tobacco as a new member of its business community.

British American Tobacco is a leading international company operating in the tobacco and nicotine industry, with a strong global presence and a portfolio of well-established brands. The company is focused on innovation and the development of a range of products, while maintaining high standards in corporate governance and sustainability.

The Chamber is delighted to welcome British American Tobacco and looks forward to their active engagement and contribution to the community.





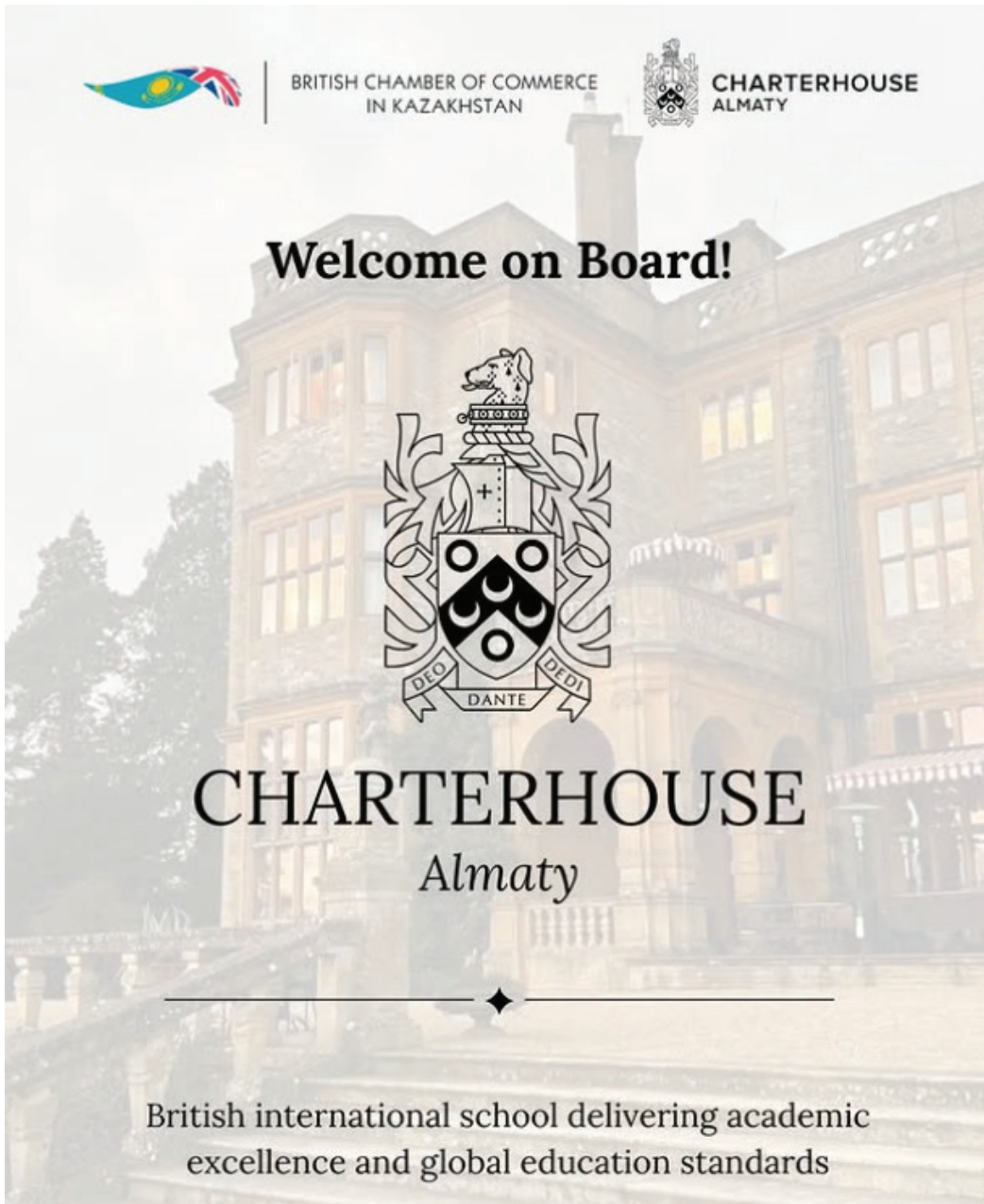
BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
IN KAZAKHSTAN

New Member of the British Chamber of Commerce in Kazakhstan.

We are delighted to welcome Charterhouse Almaty to the British Chamber of Commerce in Kazakhstan.

Charterhouse Almaty is a distinguished British international school committed to academic excellence, character development, and nurturing global citizenship.

We look forward to meaningful collaboration, shared values, and a strong partnership ahead.





BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
IN KAZAKHSTAN

Special Price For Members from Air Astana

Members of the British Chamber of Commerce in Kazakhstan are eligible to receive special preferential rates through our partnership with Air Astana, the leading international carrier of Kazakhstan.

This collaboration provides BritCham members with additional convenience and value when travelling for business or leisure. With an extensive route network across Central Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, Air Astana offers high standards of service, reliability, and comfort for international and regional travel.

Through this partnership, members can benefit from exclusive corporate travel conditions, making business trips more efficient and cost-effective.

For detailed information regarding eligibility, booking procedures, and the full terms and conditions of this benefit, please contact the BritCham team.



Exclusive Member Privilege from Swissôtel Alatau Wellness Resort & Spa

The British Chamber of Commerce in Kazakhstan is pleased to announce an exclusive partnership with Swissôtel Alatau Wellness Resort & Spa.

As part of this collaboration, BritCham members are eligible to receive a 20% corporate privilege on the hotel's Best Available Rates, offering an opportunity to experience a premium mountain wellness retreat combining comfort, nature, and world-class hospitality.

Please note that a valid BritCham Membership Certificate is required at the time of booking.

For bookings and further inquiries, please contact directly at britishchamber@britishchamber.kz





BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
IN KAZAKHSTAN

Exclusive Member Rates from Hotel Kazakhstan

The British Chamber of Commerce in Kazakhstan is proud to announce a new partnership with the legendary Hotel Kazakhstan.

An iconic part of Almaty’s skyline, Hotel Kazakhstan is more than just a place to stay — it is a symbol of the city’s history, architecture, and hospitality.

Through this partnership, BritCham members gain access to exclusive member rates across all room categories, from elegant Superior rooms to luxurious Grand Suites. Guests can enjoy breathtaking views of Almaty from one of the city’s most recognizable vantage points while benefiting from the privileges of the Chamber network.

How to book:

To access these special member rates, please contact the British Chamber team directly via email for booking assistance.



Please, be informed that now we have our profile in instagram!

Please follow us on
[@ritcham_kazakhstan](https://www.instagram.com/britcham_kazakhstan)
and Facebook
[@britishchamber.kz](https://www.facebook.com/britishchamber.kz)



BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
IN KAZAKHSTAN

Alumni UK Connect 2026 Astana

On 31 January, the British Council hosted Alumni UK Connect 2026 Astana, generously hosted by Coventry University Kazakhstan.

The event brought together representatives from the British Embassy Astana, the British Chamber of Commerce in Kazakhstan, and leading alumni associations including Bolashak International Scholarship Program, Chevening Kazakhstan, British Alumni Kazakhstan, and Women in STEM Kazakhstan.

Participants discussed opportunities for collaboration, joint initiatives, and new pathways for learning and professional development. A key focus of the conversation was how UK universities based in Kazakhstan can complement the global opportunities offered through the Alumni UK platform — creating more ways for alumni to learn, connect, and grow both locally and internationally.

Further collaborations are expected as the network continues to expand and strengthen ties within the UK–Kazakhstan academic and professional community.





BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
IN KAZAKHSTAN

2026 Tax & Labour Law Update



On 26 February, the British Chamber of Commerce in Kazakhstan in partnership with KPMG hosted the event “2026 Tax & Labour Law Update”, bringing together business leaders and professionals to discuss the latest regulatory developments in Kazakhstan.

The session focused on key topics including Kazakhstan’s new progressive tax scale, asset declaration requirements, and important amendments to labour legislation affecting businesses and employers in 2026.

The event took place at De Montfort University Kazakhstan, providing an opportunity for participants to gain expert insights, ask questions, and exchange perspectives on navigating the evolving legal and tax landscape.

We thank all participants and speakers for an engaging discussion and valuable contributions. BritCham looks forward to continuing to provide platforms for knowledge sharing and professional dialogue within the business community.



Please, be informed that now we have our profile in instagram!

Please follow us on
[@ritcham_kazakhstan](https://www.instagram.com/britcham_kazakhstan)
and Facebook
[@britishchamber.kz](https://www.facebook.com/britishchamber.kz)



BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
IN KAZAKHSTAN

Meeting with Kazakh-American University

Representatives of the British Chamber of Commerce in Kazakhstan, together with the British Embassy in Astana, visited Kazakh-American University for a meeting with the university's leadership.

During the meeting, Assylbek Isakhov, Dinara Abileva, Rassul Alibekuly, and Larissa Kanafina discussed prospects for cooperation, including the involvement of business representatives in the educational process and the development of joint initiatives such as guest lectures for students.

Following the meeting, the delegation addressed KAU students, sharing insights into the activities of the Chamber and the Embassy, as well as their professional journeys.

The event was organised in cooperation with the Diplomatic Club Astana.





BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
IN KAZAKHSTAN

International Webinar: AI for Top Executives

On 11 March, the British Chamber of Commerce in Kazakhstan, in collaboration with EY, KPMG, Narxoz University, KBTU, Altai Horizons, KIMEP University, and Rio Tinto, hosted the international webinar “AI for Top Executives: Latest Trends & Actionable Strategies.”

The session brought together CEOs, CTOs, CBDOs, and senior leaders to explore the latest global trends in artificial intelligence, practical implementation strategies, and scalable approaches to AI adoption across industries.

The webinar provided participants with valuable insights into how artificial intelligence can serve as a key driver of business transformation, equipping leaders with actionable knowledge to navigate an increasingly digital and innovation-driven landscape.

The British Chamber of Commerce in Kazakhstan expresses its sincere appreciation to all partners and participants for their contribution to the success of the event and looks forward to continued collaboration on future initiatives.





BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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Taking Action Through Art: Our Students Join the Climate

Haileybury Almaty



From the air we breathe to the choices we make as consumers, its impact is global, interconnected, and urgent. This year, our students are proud to take part in the HPL Student Competition: The Climate Action Initiative, an international project inspired by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action

The initiative invites young people to explore one of the most pressing issues of our time through creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration. Students are challenged to create an original art piece using recycled materials, transforming waste into a powerful visual commentary on climate change, pollution, and consumer culture.



Through their work, our students reflect on key questions:

- What is climate change, and who is responsible?
 - How do pollution and overconsumption contribute to environmental damage?
 - Why do recycling and conscious consumer choices matter?
 - What role can young people play in driving meaningful, positive change?
- Each artwork tells a story — not only about environmental challenges, but also about hope, responsibility, and action. By repurposing discarded materials, students highlight the hidden cost of everyday consumption while demonstrating how creativity can become a force for sustainability.



BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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Strengthening Our Partnership with Haileybury UK

Haileybury Almaty



This week, Haileybury Almaty had the pleasure of welcoming senior representatives from Haileybury UK — Eugene du Toit, Master (Headmaster) of Haileybury UK, and Maghin Tamarlasan, HUK International Partnership Director.

Such visits play a vital role in maintaining the close relationship between our schools and ensuring that the Haileybury ethos and academic standards remain consistently strong across all campuses. What makes the Haileybury partnership truly distinctive is the sense of belonging to one global family. While each school reflects its local context and community, all Haileybury schools are united by shared values, a commitment to excellence and a holistic approach to education.

We are grateful for the continued support, guidance and collaboration from Haileybury UK and look forward to further strengthening this partnership for the benefit of our students, families and wider school community.

Haileybury Almaty / Most Recent Updates British Mathematical Olympiad (BMO) Round 2 Results

We are delighted to celebrate an outstanding set of results from our pupils who competed in the British Mathematical Olympiad Round 2 (BMO2) this January.

BMO2 is the most elite tier of the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust senior competition series. It is a 3.5-hour examination consisting of four extremely challenging problems, and pupils are assessed not only on their final answers, but on the quality and structure of their full written mathematical proofs.

Results

Seongwon (Eddie) (Year 11)- Merit / Best in Year (BiY)

Erik (Year 12)- Distinction / Best in Year (BiY)

Amirlan (Year 13)- Merit

Timur (Year 13)- Distinction / Best in School (BiS)





BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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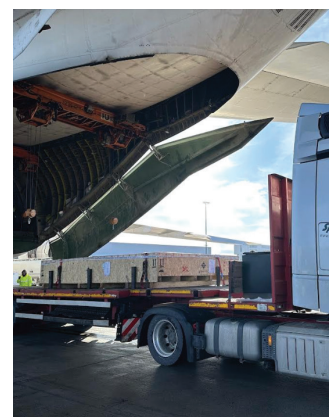


Bertling Air Freight Logistics handles special air charter to Kazakhstan on Antonov AN124

Recently, Bertling Air Freight Logistics handled a special kind of air freight transport: an Antonov AN124 air charter to Kazakhstan from Frankfurt Hahn Airport in Germany, which is quite rare. Early morning. Freezing temperatures. Five fully loaded heavy-duty trucks with special permits to travel overnight. Twenty tons of various oil and gas equipment. Our Kazakh customer was on site. Bertling’s air freight experts are ready to go. Our air freight partner, the AVICO Group, is ready for successful air transport. And one AN-124, exclusively chartered for one mission: to load and fly the oversized cargo just in time Aktau, Kazakhstan.

Comprehensive pre-planning

The cargo arrived from Netphen, a town near Siegen in western Germany, to Frankfurt Hahn Airport earlier in the evening. The goods, which were up to 4,25 m wide dish heads, baffles and elliptical heads were transported overnight based on a special permit and accompanied by security and convoy vehicles to ensure a safe journey.



Our experts on site

With Bertling’s dedicated air freight product for heavy and oversized cargo, B. Cargo, our air freight logistics experts, led by Janine Seemke (Global Head of Air Freight) and Tom Kansmeyer (Heavy-Lift Engineer), closely monitored the unloading of the cargo from the trucks and its loading into the massive AN-124 with the aircraft’s own cranes. Gulzhanat Zhasmagambetova, Project Manager from our Kazakhstan office, supervised the loading of cargo in Netphen and the loading of aircraft, while taking care of our customer, who was also at the airport.

Special lashing and securing measures were required to safely position the cargo inside the aircraft.

Read more about B. Cargo: <https://www.bertling.com/logistics/air-freight/>

Reliable partners are key

The loading supervision was done by our dedicated Air Freight Partner, AVICO Group, who specialize in sensitive and complex air freight operations around the globe. With their support the AN-124 was fully loaded without delay and ready for her journey to Kazakhstan. We care for your air transport



European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development





BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
IN KAZAKHSTAN



Kounrad Foundation

The Kounrad Foundation is a corporate foundation established in 2017 by two companies — LLP “Sary Kazna” and LLP “Kounrad Copper Company”, whose parent company is Central Asia Metals PLC — with the aim of supporting the sustainable development of the local community and improving the quality of life for residents of Balkhash and the Konyrat district in Kazakhstan. The Foundation implements projects in socio-economic and environmental areas, including programmes for infrastructure development, support for education and healthcare, and initiatives aimed at environmental protection. The Foundation operates on the principles of transparency, objectivity, and efficient use of resources, with assistance directed towards achieving a long-term positive impact for society.

Information on the STEAM Educational Programme of the Kounrad Foundation

Balkhash STEAM Serpini is an educational programme of the Kounrad Foundation, implemented by the Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (EFCA).

The aim of the programme is to create a sustainable educational environment in Balkhash that enables school students to develop modern STEAM skills (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) and prepares them for the challenges of the future.

Results of the First Academic Year (2024–2025)

During the first year, a comprehensive foundation was established for the integration of STEAM in the city’s schools:

- A comprehensive needs assessment of schools was conducted.
- 7 schools received grants to equip classrooms.
- 5 STEAM educational programmes were developed and approved.
- 17 elective courses were launched.
- 281 students received 578 hours of practical STEAM training.
- 113 teachers were involved in the project.

Teachers not only completed training but also became active members of the professional community:

- 9 teachers developed their own educational programmes.
- 14 academic articles were published.
- Participation in 27 competitions was achieved, including the Grand Prix at the regional stage of the “Teacher of the Year” competition.

Students demonstrated tangible practical outcomes:

- 38 student projects were developed.
- Participation in 34 competitions (134 participants).
- 9 lectures delivered by invited experts.
- The final STEAM Festival (held in May 2025) brought together 536 participants — students,



Importantly, the project received institutional recognition: elective courses were officially approved, and graduates of several schools have already received certificates including STEAM disciplines. The successful implementation of the first year enabled the transition to the second stage of the programme.

GLOBAL MOBILITY

KZ->Dubai->Cambodia->UK

Student Development Service is DMUK's dynamic initiative designed to shape confident, skilled, and globally minded graduates. Through leadership development, cultural exchange, career programmes, and international opportunities, it equips students to thrive personally and professionally in a fast-paced global world.





BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
IN KAZAKHSTAN



International Foundation Year with NCUK

Our member De Montfort University Kazakhstan has launched the International Foundation Year (IFY) with NCUK, a 9-month pre-university programme designed to prepare international students for study at English-language universities.

The programme focuses on developing subject knowledge, academic study skills, and English language proficiency, enabling students to smoothly progress to undergraduate studies.

Students can choose from several study pathways, including:

- Business programmes (Business Studies, Economics, Global Studies, Mathematics)
- Computing programmes (Business Studies, Computer Science, Mathematics for Engineering)
- Art & Design programmes with an extended project component.

This programme provides a strong academic foundation for students planning to continue their education at leading international universities.

Duration – 9 months

BUSINESS PROGRAMS

- The English for Academic Purposes (EAP) / The EAP for Proficient Users (EAPPU)
- Business Studies
- Economics
- Global Studies
- Mathematics (Business)

COMPUTING PROGRAMS

- The English for Academic Purposes (EAP) / The EAP for Proficient Users (EAPPU)
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Global Studies
- Mathematics (Engineering)

ART & DESIGN PROGRAMS

- The English for Academic Purposes (EAP) / The EAP for Proficient Users (EAPPU)
- Art & Design
- Art & Design extended project





BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
IN KAZAKHSTAN

A New Way to Reach Southern China



From June 2, 2026, travelling to Guangzhou from Astana becomes even more convenient.

In addition to our services from Almaty, new flights from Astana offer more options, better timing, and a smoother journey to China.

Guangzhou is just a short distance from Hong Kong and Shenzhen, is a dynamic metropolis where tradition meets innovation, and business blends with culture. Enjoy a seamless journey and explore all that Southern China has to offer.

As a major global trade hub, Guangzhou is home to the world-renowned Canton Fair — the largest trade exhibition in China, attracting thousands of international buyers and exhibitors each year. The new direct flights provide convenient access for business travellers attending this key international event.

Astana – Guangzhou

Direct flights twice a week: Every Tuesday and Thursday

One-way fares:

Economy Class – from 152,869 KZT / 309 USD

Business Class – from 526,230 KZT / 1,064 USD

Full information can be found here: <https://airastana.com/kaz-en/booking-manage/flights-to-guangzhou>





BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
IN KAZAKHSTAN

Flights from Kazakhstan to Larnaca, Cyprus



air Astana launches direct flights from Kazakhstan to Larnaca, Cyprus, offering an easy escape to the Mediterranean — sun, sea, and a slower pace from the moment you land.

Almaty – Larnaca

Starting 4 June 2026

Direct flights twice a week: Thursday & Sunday

One-way fares from 171,000 KZT / 341 USD

Astana – Larnaca

Starting 6 June 2026

Direct flights twice a week: Tuesday & Saturday

One-way fares from 162,000 KZT / 323 USD

Direct beach access, warm Mediterranean climate, short transfer times, and an authentic European atmosphere.

Larnaca combines resort relaxation with culture, cuisine, and walkable seaside living — ideal for stress-free holidays, couples' getaways, and family travel.

Full information can be found here: <https://airastana.com/kaz-en/booking-form/flights-to-larnaca>



RioTinto





BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
IN KAZAKHSTAN

Top Spring Activities in Kazakhstan

Spring in Kazakhstan (April–June) offers ideal, mild weather for exploring stunning natural landscapes, including hiking in Charyn Canyon, visiting Kolsai Lakes, and seeing the submerged forest of Lake Kaindy. Top activities include skiing at Shymbulak, touring the Almaty city sights, relaxing in mountain hot springs, and exploring national parks during the vibrant bloom season

Natural Wonders & Hiking:

Explore the “Valley of Castles” in Charyn Canyon, hike the three Kolsai Lakes, or visit the striking blue-green Big Almaty Lake.

Mountains & Skiing:

Take the gondola at Shymbulak Mountain Resort for panoramic views or enjoy late-season skiing.

Relaxation & Hot Springs: Visit the natural hot springs in the Almaty region (like Alma-Arasan or Gorelnik) for a relaxing soak in the mountains.

City Sightseeing: Explore Almaty’s Panfilov Park, the Green Bazaar, and ride the Kok-Tobe cable car. In Astana, visit the iconic Baiterek Tower.

Cultural Experiences: Participate in spring festivals, such as Nauryz (celebrated in late March), featuring traditional music, food, and nomadic games.

Day Trips: Visit Turgen Waterfalls or the unique underwater forest of Lake Kaindy.



<https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g293943-Activities-c57-t61-Kazakhstan.html>



Traditional Kazakh Cuisine to Savor

Want to learn more about traditional Kazakhstan food? During a recent trip, I had the pleasure of trying some of the most popular dishes in Kazakhstan. Here are the Best Traditional Kazakhstan Foods to try.



Kazakh cuisine offers a delightful array of flavors, reflecting its nomadic heritage and diverse cultural influences. Here are some traditional dishes to try:

Beshbarmak: Known as the national dish of Kazakhstan, Beshbarmak consists of boiled meat (commonly horse, lamb, or beef) served over flat noodles and topped with onion sauce. The name translates to “five fingers,” as it’s traditionally eaten by hand.

URBAN BLISS LIFE

Boursak: These are soft, puffy fried bread pieces, often enjoyed as a snack or dessert. They have a slightly sweet taste and are a staple at festive gatherings.

URBAN BLISS LIFE

Kumis: A traditional fermented dairy drink made from mare’s milk, Kumis has a unique tart flavor and is known for its refreshing qualities.

ADVANTOUR

Kazy: A delicacy made from horsemeat sausage, Kazy is seasoned with garlic and spices, then boiled or smoked. It’s typically served during special occasions and is a testament to Kazakh culinary artistry.

URBAN BLISS LIFE

Shubat: This is fermented camel’s milk, known for its slightly sour taste and health benefits. It’s a traditional beverage in Kazakhstan, especially popular in the summer months.

URBAN BLISS LIFE

Embracing these cultural events and culinary delights offers a deeper understanding of Kazakhstan’s rich heritage. Whether you’re attending a festival or savoring traditional dishes, March presents a wonderful opportunity to connect with the Kazakh way of life.

https://urbanblisslife.com/traditional-kazakhstan-food/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Kazakhstan’s Holidays: More Than Just Days Off

Kazakhstan, the ninth largest country in the world, embraces many nationalities who have contributed to the evolution of the nation’s public holidays. Below we have listed the major Kazakhstan holidays, each of which is likely to invoke in visitors the tourism slogan of Kazakhstan- “Very Nice!”

Public Holidays in Kazakhstan in 2026

May 9, Sat — Victory Day

July 6, Mon — Capital City Day

August 30, Sun — Constitution Day

October 25, Sun — Republic Day of Kazakhstan

December 16–17, Wed–Thu — Independence Day



<https://central-asia.guide/kazakhstan/kazakh-culture/kazakh-national-holidays/>

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