



DEAR *Dear friends!* FRIENDS!

My name is Mohamad Duba, Class of 2016, and this year I was graciously allowed to act as CIS Alumni Association president for the 2020-2021 academic period. A resolution I set myself this New Year season is trying to strengthen my connections and pursue more meaningful interactions. This sentiment is well-timed due to the volatile global climate, forcing us into differing degrees of isolation. Having been told that 'as you invest in your relationships, both professional and personal, random payoffs begin materialising', I wanted to see this in practice.

Holding fond memories of my school days, I tried to maintain a connection with people from that period of my life. Not long ago, I had the pleasure of meeting one of my CIS teachers, Mr Ildar Ilyazov, in London. Other than sharing old memories, he also told me the plans for growing the school's alumni network. This idea excited me as I thought it might rekindle old ties.

Furthermore, I have used the alumnus networks at my undergraduate and postgraduate universities, where I was given valuable guidance for my career and academic growth. Witnessing the benefits first-hand, I look forward to taking part in this knowledge-sharing cycle beginning at our school.

CIS served as a crossroads, where we have accumulated memories of our time there – long nights studying for exams, competitive teacher-student football games, jokes in the locker room, lunchtime debates, advice from our mentors, and maybe a misadventure or two. Remembering all the kind faces and character-defining moments that have helped shaped our outlook, I become grateful for being a part of this community. Naturally, as we strive to reach our career aspirations, life scatters us across different continents, disciplines and industries, leaving no time for us to maintain the channels of communication we had in school. As students and teachers come and go, everyone leaves their mark, defining what CIS means for future generations. The Alumni network is a physical embodiment of this, allowing us to foster cross-generational ties and maintain meaningful relationships.

Through taking part in the alumni association, you will be able to cultivate your network.

We hope to build a community to help better utilise your skill set, stay on top of the latest trends, keep a pulse on the job market, meet prospective mentors, partners and clients, and gain access to the necessary resources that will foster your career development. A young member will use the collective expertise of the alumnus for advice and personal growth. But once the member has become established in their respected field, their advice will become of great value to someone beginning the journey they have been on for years. The benefit to the established member is the novel information of trends and new processes common in younger generations. Hopefully, this will turn into a place

Mohamad Duba,
Graduate of University of College London (UCL)



President of CIS Alumni Association



**Мухаммед Дуба
Mokhammad Douba**
2016 graduate, University College of London

Vice President of CIS Alumni Association



**Марта Литвинская
Marta Litvinskaya**
2018 graduate, University of Geneva

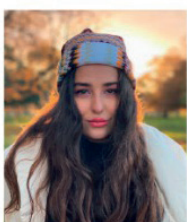
Ambassador in European Union



**Ильтен Джанджа
Ilten Canca**
2018 graduate, Delft University of Technology, Netherlands

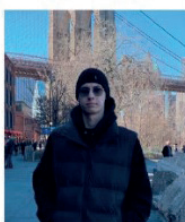


Ambassador in United Kingdom



**Айлин Буююктосун
Aylin Vuuyuktosun**
2020 graduate, City, University of London

Ambassador in United States



**Всеволод Огарев
Sebastian Ogarev**
2019 graduate, New York Institute of Technology

Ambassador in Russia



**Шамил Насиров
Shamil Nasirov**
2018 graduate, University of Greenwich

A sledge for Ksenia

In December, the Skolkovo campus hosted a Charity week. During the week, we collected various gifts for those in need. A student of the Municipal State educational Institution for students with disabilities Starogorodkovskaya secondary school "Harmony" Ksenia wrote a letter to Santa Claus with a request to give her a sledge for children with cerebral palsy. This letter was addressed to the Cambridge International School Alumni Association with a request to help. Thank you to our graduates for their kind hearts and desire to help! The sledge worth 12,000 rubles was purchased by the association and was presented to Ksenia on New Year's Eve! Ksenia and her parents expressed their sincere gratitude to our school and graduates for their kindness.

Mr Vadim,
Alumni Relations Officer



Food Advice



Board games party

On a wonderful November evening, we gathered with teachers, alumni and friends of the school in the Butahouse cafe to have a good time, chat and play the FoodAdvice board game. In 2020, the alumni association has already held several sessions of the FoodAdvice game in May, June, July and August. Some of those who came have already played the FoodAdvice earlier and this, as for me, was an additional motivation to meet, because the game is really interesting and even educational. You can develop skills (which are useful in any area of application) using the platform of the food industry. The game is designed in such a way that if the participant is not associated with the food industry, then he has to force himself to come up with behaviour models, design, marketing ideas to develop his business and promote the product on the market. This takes you out of your comfort zone, and this is where development, learning, and gaining new experience is taking place.

In addition to fun and time spent at the game table we, of course, got to know each other, recalled the time spent together within the walls of the school, smiles and laughter filled the room on the night, we kindly recalled colleagues/teachers, students/classmates - there are always such stories that will cheer up or make our heartbeat stronger, and, surprisingly, the stories change from one alumni meeting to another and almost never repeat themselves! We have a lot to remember and something to laugh about!

It is always very pleasant to hear about the success of our alumni, to find out what they have achieved, to be surprised that those whom you still considered children have already grown up, someone has married and got children, someone has climbed up the career ladder, someone then travelled many places on Earth - there is so much happening! Let's meet more often! Stay safe, stay CIS!

Charity

Together with the CIS Alumni Association and Food Advice project, we visited the "UchimZnaem" school in the Dmitry Rogachev medical research center, who creates a full-fledged educational environment in many different hospitals for children with cancer, since they cannot attend a regular school or kindergarten for various reasons. We were warmly welcomed by the management and had an entertaining your on the campus and through the history of the project. Then we played the FoodAdvice board game with the students of the center, and it helped to add fun and color to their and our routine days..

Shamil Nasirov,
Ambassador of CIS Alumni Association in Russia

Mr Aleksei,
Alumni Relations Officer.



Publication

The first time when I was asked to write an article, I was pleasantly surprised. However, I have been thinking for a long time whether to agree or not, because I have never written such works, especially for such magazines as Supermama. I admit I was afraid as it was always difficult for me to express my thoughts in writing. But, I decided to accept the challenge and agreed to write the article. "When will I get such chance," I thought.

The hardest part for me was to start the text. After writing the first sentence the rest of the article I wrote in one breath. I was very carried away by the process because I shared my thoughts, my experience. It was nice to think that someone might find my article useful. Shortly after writing my first article, more proposals were made for publication of works in the magazines Youngzine, Babyer, Instagram. I agreed without hesitation. And each following article was easier and easier for me to write.

Now, when I see my works in magazines I understand that I did the right thing when agreed.

My advice to you don't be afraid to write, get out of your comfort zone! This is an unforgettable experience.

Fatima Samidova,
Graduate of MGIMO

Cooking Class

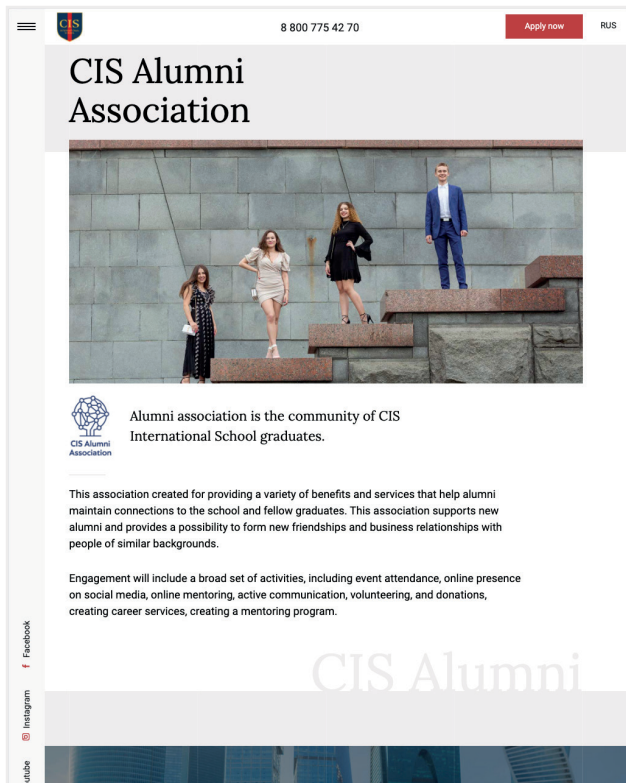
As a part of Alumni on December 4, I was invited to a culinary master class at Jamie Oliver's School. The chef Alexey accompanied us all evening, he patiently and humorously answered our questions, also showed an incredible excellence in preparation of the dish.

This master class flew in one go, and impressed all participants. Everyone who came to the event had to take part in the process of cooking, no one was left without attention. I really liked Alexei's individual approach to each of the participants, liked his ability to organize and unite team in the process of creating a culinary masterpiece. He is a chef with amazing performance, attentive to all participants and the nuances regarding cooking. The evening passed in a very welcoming and friendly atmosphere. The chef explained and helped to cook Jamie Oliver's ravioli.

The evening was fascinating and entertaining, and unforgettable and instructive. We learned to cook, ate delicious food and laughed! We got lots of fun and impressions from the process, and the most important thing is that no one was left hungry!

Thanks to Alexey for a wonderful master class and Alumni for the opportunity to feel like magicians in the kitchen!

Nazim Valiev,
Graduate of University of Surrey



Alumni page

Welcome to the CIS Alumni Association page. My name is Aylin Byuyyuktosun (2020 graduate). Currently I am helping CIS's Marketing Department by maintaining this page. I am encouraging each of you to share your success stories with me and other CIS Alumni. Your news is going to be published here for everyone to see. Exchanging experiences and supporting each other is crucial for all of us to be successful and achieve our goals.

Aylin Byuyyuktosun,
Ambassador of CIS Alumni Association in UK



Habit tracking

Going from high school to college could be both exciting and frightening, especially when moving across countries or even continents. After living in Russia for 18 years, I had a grand journey as an international student in the US exploring new opportunities and overcoming challenges along the way. While I felt distant and uneasy about the unfamiliar cultures, I gained valuable knowledge from the immersion in a diverse social environment. While I would get bored of the suburban lifestyle, I also enjoyed the solitude and serenity. While I was overwhelmed by the vast amount of fields in academic business, I learned from the first-hand experience of building, running, and growing real-life companies. The experience was challenging yet rewarding. If I had the chance, I would do it all over again.

In high school, I spent two years studying the US high-school program on top of Russian state exams, followed by one year of college applications. Among a couple of other offers, I ended up accepting the one from Babson College, a private business school in Wellesley. Babson has a formidable international student population (26%), a small yet modern campus half an hour drive away from Boston, and most importantly, the best entrepreneurial program in the US. Despite the anxiety of leaving my comfort zone, Moscow, with families, friends, and my dog behind, I decided to take the opportunity.





Finale: Daily Habit Tracker



<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/finale-daily-habit-tracker/id1546661013>

Fast forward three and a half years, I am already a senior, graduating this May, with knowledge and experience unattainable elsewhere, and zero regrets about my choice of university. From my Freshman year entrepreneurial class, I gained first-hand experience founding a custom sticker company, going through each step of ideation, winning the rocket-pitch competition, proving feasibility, formulating the business plan, securing funding, settling the team, operating, and eventually closing the business. In Junior year, I had the chance to spend a semester in San Francisco, where I learned about venture capital, experienced the west coast culture, and be part of a consulting team working with Silicon Valley unicorns. On the side, I continued to work on my game development studio Finale, releasing two mobile games, Tap Drift and Active Defense, and prototyping an open-world PC game. Last year, I built my own e-commerce business selling personalized pet-apparels and successfully sold for profit. Most recently, inspired by the book Atomic Habits, I picked up iOS development and created a habit tracking app, Finale: Daily Habit Tracker, which reached the top 20 in the US charts.

Of course, there were times when I felt lonely being the only few Russians on campus, while other students came here with friends. In some instances, my straightforward Russian manner would be considered rude or confrontational during meetings. And in almost every personal project, I struggled to self-learn everything from YouTube videos. Yet, every time I pushed myself out of my comfort zone, I became more independent, cultured, and proficient, unlocking the doors to next-level challenges.

None of this would be possible if I stayed in Russia after high school. Going abroad for college creates an immense opportunity for personal growth both culturally and professionally. Attending CIS in 2012-2014 gave me an early glimpse of the world outside of Russia by exposing me to the different cultures and experiences. Who knows how my life would have turned out without this early sample, but today I am grateful for the opportunities and lessons along the way.

Grant Oganyan,
Graduate of Babson College

