

CREES students visit Kazakhstan

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During April 2012, five students from the Centre for Russian and East European Studies, Youngmo Jung, Yeani Shin, Yassin Mamade, Michael Kellett and Rafael Sanchez visited Almaty, Kazakhstan. The visit to Kazakhstan was part of their studies on the **Caucasus and Central Asia Pathway within the MSc Programme in Contemporary Russian and East European Studies**. (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/taught/govsoc/contemporary-russian-east-european-studies-caucasus-central-asia.aspx>)



The students were hosted by the **Kazakh-British Technical University (KBTU)** (<http://www.kbtu.kz/>) within **INSPIRE** (<http://www.britishcouncil.org/learning-support-uk-providers-inspire.htm>), a British Council-funded project on Strategic Partnership. This project is a partnership between the University of Birmingham and the British-Kazakh Technical University (KBTU).

Yeani Shin (</schools/government-society/teaching/student-profiles/postgraduate/crees/shin-yeani-msc-crees-kazakhstan.aspx>), "The most enjoyable aspects of the trip were: mixing with the native groups; speaking in Russian; learning Kazakh from the local people each day; gaining genuine information about people and their country and seeing the incredible natural landscape (the steppe region and the canyons)."

Youngmo Jung (</schools/government-society/teaching/student-profiles/postgraduate/crees/youngmo-jung-msc-crees-kazakhstan.aspx>), "I learned a great deal from this trip, but the most valuable aspect of the trip was being able to mix with the Kazakhstani students and seeing Kazakh youth culture at first hand."

The project is led by **Dr Galina Yemelianova, CREES** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/staff/profiles.aspx?Referenceld=4540>) (on the UK side) and **Dr Svetlana Zhanabayeva, KBTU** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/government-society/inspire/staff/zhanabayeva-svetlana.aspx>) (on the Kazakhstani side).

During their stay the students attended classes in subjects of their interest, conducted research for their dissertations and practiced their Kazakh and Russia languages.