

alumni spotlight

Nikol Chen
Class of 2016
Haileybury Almaty



Nikol Chen graduated from **Haileybury Almaty**, a COBIS Accredited School in 2016. Nikol is currently studying **Human Sciences** at **University College London (UCL)**, a programme that includes Biology, Psychology, Anthropology, and Environmental Studies.

Nikol's interest in the biological sciences began in her childhood, which was full of encyclopedias about animals, and hiking trips in the Kazakh mountains. Her **passion** was further developed at Haileybury Almaty, where Biology classes allowed her to **explore our planet** more deeply. When she found about the Human Sciences programme at UCL, with its broad range of subjects included, she immediately knew she had found **the course for her!** Having moved to London and joined UCL in September 2016, Nikol has taken **full advantage** of the many different societies and activities on offer. She is a member of the UCL Life Sciences Society, being made Marketing Director in May 2017, as well as being Head of Design at the university's official student radio station, Rare FM.

Nikol is extremely grateful for her time at Haileybury Almaty, believing she wouldn't have had the chance to study at such a **prestigious university** without it. The school gave Nikol a **full scholarship** for her three years at UCL, an **incredible opportunity** that has made her dreams come true! Haileybury Almaty helped her with the university application process and developed her skills in essay writing, critical thinking, and debating. She **appreciates** how the teachers always helped their students through "*giving important feedback and pushing them in the right direction*". Nikol was made Head Girl in 2014-15, a position which involved participating in meetings with students and staff and hosting assemblies. She was also involved in organising the school prom and working on the school magazine and yearbook. Whilst at school, Nikol participated in a number of **COBIS student events**, writing for the World Student magazine and winning the prize for Best Scientific Theory Explanation in the COBIS Young Scientist Film Awards.

In the future, Nikol hopes to use the **skills, knowledge and experience** she is gaining through her studies to **raise awareness** back home in Kazakhstan about the country's ecology. She says that the areas of global warming and environmental threats are poorly developed in Kazakhstan, so she hopes to be able to use her experiences to work towards **tackling problems** in these areas, such as protecting endangered species like the saiga and snow leopard. Her other goals include "*helping Kazakhstan in developing our human capital, because I believe that it will support the country to reach the highest international standards.*"