



Alumnus Subject Graduated Place of Work

Alexei Kabanov
Economics and Management
2004
LLC «Kontinent group», Samara Medical
Technical Lyceum
Managing Director, IB Business &
Management Teacher



Having gained his Bachelor degree, Alexei returned to Samara, Russia, where he now claims many strings to his bow, including co-ownership of a real estate company, Managing Director of a catering business, and a teacher at a prestigious school for International Baccalaureate candidates.

Great minds *go on to* great places

Why did you choose to study at Royal Holloway?

First of all, you get a University of London degree, one of the most prestigious degrees in the UK. Secondly, the location of the campus, surrounded by great nature, woods and the freshest air (which is so important for fresh thinking when writing assignments), as well as the amazing Founder's building, is totally unique. It is a real student campus, with its own university life inside a mini university town, a quality that you will not find in universities in London, which are located in the city and so have very few campus facilities. The neighbourhood is very picturesque with Windsor Park close by for your morning runs, the Thames for rowing activities, and London with all its attractions and nightlife. A great combination that is very difficult, if not impossible, to find in any other college.

What had you heard about the School of Management and Department of Economics before you arrived?

I knew that both departments had great lecturers and academic staff in addition to reading about the students' experience, and so decided that I would be lucky to study there.

What attracted you to the course?

I could not make a choice between Economics and

Management, because I knew I would enjoy the practical activities in Management and the theory behind Economics. So when I found out that the course gave me the opportunity to study both, I went for it. The course itself was well balanced between the two subjects; I had the flexibility to choose modules that really interested me. In addition, the access to the University of London electronic library was of great help as it had enormous amounts of valuable information.

What were the best parts of the course?

That would be the individual work that we undertook on the course. This is where I really learned how to be disciplined in my approach to study, and how to extract the information I needed from all available sources. Nowadays this is a very important skill since we are continually bombarded with information, as never before in history. Developing advanced learning skills, the ability to analyse and concentrate on what is important, and knowing how to express yourself in appropriate ways, are the most vital abilities that we take out of university. You always have facts and figures to hand on the internet, but higher education is what is left in your head after you forget everything else.

Were you part of any societies, and what were the best parts?

I joined the Investment Society, in which we learned

how to earn money on the stock exchange using a virtual account. Everything was real life, except for the money! This gave me an insight into how big money works on the stock market. I was also a member of the Royal Holloway Boat Club. Our training sessions were early in the mornings before classes. It was wonderful: we met so many sunrises whilst out rowing. I was also employed part time by the university, working in my first and second years as a Porter on campus, and as a Computer Centre Assistant during my third year. These experiences were also very valuable to me.

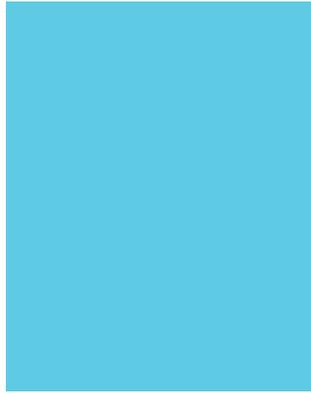
In three words, what was your Royal Holloway experience like?

Challenging, interesting and very helpful.

What did you do after graduating?

I went back to Russia and started working for a real estate developer, who had big investment plans around Russia. Having a degree from University of London was very handy as it impressed the employers, and proved my good level of English so I had a great chance of getting the job. I was interviewed to check how good I was in both Management and Economics: I was asked to analyse a few situations from the manager's perspective, then talked through some current economical issues.





people with passion

“I am lucky to work with great people, all professionals in their field of work, who inspire me every day.”



What has been your career path since graduating?

After working for a big developer company, I decided that being the owner of one's own business is more challenging and rewarding. I am now a Co-Owner and a Managing Director of a relatively small real estate investment company and a catering company in Russia. I also recently started teaching Business and Management to student on the International Baccalaureate Diploma programme at a school in Samara. This part time role excites me as it gives me a chance to share my experience and knowledge with the younger generation.

Tell us about your current roles?

As a Managing Director of a real estate company, I always search for a good investment, whether it is a land plot, a house, or an office. My aim is to coordinate the activities to add value to that real estate. Creating something and making it worth more than double your initial investment is what we strive to achieve.

As for the catering business, our company has contracts with government authorities, such as hospitals, police stations and schools. Now, they are all outsourcing their food catering services, so it is a new growing market for our company.

Teaching is very exciting. Students are very keen to learn Business from a practical perspective, so we very often have lively discussions about how things are done outside the book theory.

What are your favourite parts of the job?

In real estate, it is creating something of high value that people want to buy. In catering, it is when the patients of the hospitals say that the food is better than before! In teaching, it is when you instil enthusiasm in your students about the world of business so that they might start to think more broadly about their choice of university courses. I am lucky to work with great people, all professionals in their field of work, who inspire me every day. This is my favourite part.

What is the best project you have worked on recently?

That would have to be a social innovation project with the students, which is a competition of socially valuable ideas that can be employed locally with the perspective of a global use. Our team made it to the final of the national competition, but we didn't quite make the last stage. Our idea was in the field of the utilisation of ecologically harmful waste, something that is very important in Russia. We created a programme to educate students of a young age about the different types

of pollution that the disposal of batteries and lamps create when mixed with everyday rubbish. Part of that programme involved designing and constructing robots out of old computers and other hi-tech waste to feature in an exhibition called 'Create Art out of it, or Utilise Properly'.

Where do you hope to be in three years time?

Above all, I would like to be developing the presence of International Baccalaureate programmes across Russia. I think that the qualification is most appropriate for the modern, international and multi-cultural world where traditional country borders are being cut across by technology. I have two children of my own and would certainly wish for them to be educated through IB programmes.

What is your top tip for current students?

Do not waste your time on things you will not remember in 10 years. Set yourself an aim and go towards it no matter what. You are in control of your life, and how well you live in the future depends on what you do today. Try and achieve something every day, make it count: no one will do it for you. The earlier you understand this, the sooner you start building your life. I wish that I could have got that into my head earlier!



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