



THE ENGLISH COLLEGE IN PRAGUE  
ANGLICKÉ GYMNÁZIUM

## ECP ALUMNI

What they say about  
The English College in Prague

inspire :more

THE ENGLISH COLLEGE IN PRAGUE NETWORK

All ECP students automatically become members of the ECP Network (ECPN) when they leave school. Graduates frequently visit the College to advise current students on universities and careers, sharing their experience and offering practical advice, helping to guide the next generation as they enter their adult lives.



**TOMÁŠ POSPÍŠIL (IB 1999)**  
Deputy Ambassador, EU Delegation to Uruguay

If I think about how the English College has helped me, I would say primarily my English skills and then teaching me the ability to think critically and to consider the arguments both for and against were equally important for my work both in the private and now the public sector. I learned the meaning of the words biased, unbiased and prejudice. I hardly understood the idea behind them, even in Czech, because the concept of biased news, biased analysis or an unbiased opinion was very new to many in Czech society in the early 1990s. Neither shall I forget the fact that I basically grew up in a positive, multi-cultural environment and as such I was keen to pursue an international career and I have had no problems adapting in any of the countries I have lived in so far, including my present post as Deputy Ambassador, Delegation of the EU to Uruguay.



**RICHARD FAKIN (IB 2000)**  
Consultant Plastic Surgeon



I am a graduate of the Class of 2000, now a consultant plastic surgeon in Switzerland and Spain. The ECP and the IB offered me the fundamentals and a successful start to my education and career. Furthermore, I appreciated the multi-cultural environment and the formation of young minds by an individualised approach and way of thinking and the defining of personalised qualities and style. Now, as a parent myself, the IB - taught in an international environment - is a privilege I want to offer to my children.

**JAN BRUNNER (IB 1999)**  
**Deputy Czech Ambassador to the UK**

When I attended this year's annual English College Foundation Garden Party at the Czech Embassy in London, I realised once again what the English College in Prague (ECP) means to me. There is a special bond between the students of the ECP that cannot be explained with words. Whenever I meet someone who has his or her own history with the English College in Prague, there is immediately a mutual sympathy and understanding. I am not exaggerating when I say that the years at the ECP were the best of my life. I started my ECP journey as a shy student sitting at the back of the class and currently, I am serving my country as the Deputy Ambassador of the Czech Republic in the United Kingdom. The English College in Prague gave me confidence in myself and taught me how to defend my arguments. I will always be grateful to the English College in Prague not only for my professional success, but especially for the life-long friendships we made there.



**BARBORA KOHOUTOVÁ (IB 2008)**  
**World Para Ice Hockey Manager**  
**at the International Paralympic Committee**



The English College in Prague is a friendly place with high quality teaching staff that strives on a daily basis to develop the students' personalities and talents. Through its emphasis on individual expression, respectful debates, structured writing and critical thinking, I was fully prepared to apply the knowledge and experience gained from the six years I spent at the ECP to my further endeavours in higher education (at the University of Edinburgh) and then in my current workplace. The IB Programme enabled me to choose to study those subjects that I was interested in, allowing me to become the best I can be and to be and stay myself. For all this, I am very grateful to the ECP.

**LUCIE SAMCOVÁ (IB 2000)**  
**Head of Political Section, EU Delegation to the UN**



My thanks go to my ECP teachers. You challenged my intellect, you focused my mind, and made me try harder. You helped me become who I wanted to be.

**MARTIN STEIN (IB 2000)**  
**Country Head, Japan for Amp Energy**

I am Country Head, Japan for Amp Energy, a global developer of flexible clean energy infrastructure. The English College has been and will remain a big part of who I am as a person. It's a great and unique institution that not only gave me a world class education and the opportunity to continue my studies at the highest level in the UK but also truly made me think. I think of it as the beginning of my real education.



**JAKUB RENNER (IB 2003)**  
**Conference Interpreter, European Parliament**



The English College taught me to view the world from a broader perspective. Thanks to the English College, English became my second native language, which was instrumental for my subsequent university studies and my career. For over eight years I've worked as a conference interpreter for the European Parliament.

### **EVA INDRUCHOVÁ (IB 2002)**

**Head of the International Department & Head of Permanent Representation of the Czech Bar Association in Brussels**



I am a lawyer, currently working as Head of the International Department of the Czech Bar Association and Head of Permanent Representation of the Czech Bar Association in Brussels. I follow the work of many international organisations, I am a member of the Czech Delegation to The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) and a member of the Executive Committee of the International Association of Young Lawyers. Apart from a necessary knowledge of (European) law and foreign languages, my work

requires good analytical abilities, management skills, sociability, flexibility and quick decision-making. I acquired all these basic skills at the English College in Prague (ECP) where the approach towards students is unique, friendly and always encouraging. The ECP formed who I am and it is certainly more than just a school, it is a way of life and thinking – in an international environment you learn to be open-minded, to have respect for others, to be unbiased, to understand different cultures, to be independent yet able to work in a team, self-confident but not an egotist. To use critical thinking and to be able to stand out. Simply to discover and develop your full potential. Even though after the ECP I pursued my University studies in Prague, my next path automatically led abroad. I have lived in Germany, France and now in Belgium and like many of my fellow classmates, I consider it natural - the world is to be explored and you will always take the ECP spirit with you.

### **FILIP KIELAR (IB 1999)**

**Lecturer and Researcher,  
Naresuan University, Thailand**

My name is Filip Kielar and I am a 1999 ECP graduate. I am currently working as a lecturer and researcher at Naresuan University in Thailand. Since getting my IB Diploma at the ECP, I have studied and worked in the Czech Republic, Netherlands, UK, Italy, USA, and now Thailand. I am certain that



studying at the ECP was instrumental in preparing me for this global lifestyle, both by providing me with invaluable language skills and also an open minded approach to the world. I especially appreciated the possibility of selecting subjects for IB according to my interests - Natural Sciences. In fact, it was through fulfilling one of the IB criteria, namely the Extended Essay, that I was propelled towards my future career in Chemistry. The ECP and my Chemistry teacher at the time arranged for me to undertake research at the Institute of Chemical Technology in Prague, where I would later study. In addition, my interest in the sciences was further cemented when I was given the opportunity to represent the ECP at the London International Youth Science Forum in July 1998.

### **MARTIN ČENĚK (IB 2000)**

**Assistant Professor and Researcher, Faculty of Architecture, Czech Technical University**



It has already been quite a while since I last went through the iconic blue door of the ECP, but I still refer to what it offered me on an almost daily basis. Although I now work in Prague and communicate predominantly in Czech, the international and open-minded environment of the ECP was essential for me. I am firmly convinced that it was the ECP that prepared all of us for our subsequent

university education and professional careers, although maybe mine is a bit less typical for an ECP graduate. At the ECP we were taught how to think, be critical, thoroughly analyse and learn. The College and all the fantastic people I met there remain dear to me.

### **KATEŘINA KANTOVÁ (IB 1999)** **Psychologist**

My name is Kateřina Kantová, a former student at the ECP and today, a psychologist. Without doubt, I would repeat my ECP studies over again; the College was a very inspiring and open-minded environment, with a variety of perspectives and possibilities for study. I chose to be a psychologist because I loved my IB



Psychology course and my teacher at the ECP and today, I still have a passion for my job. As a psychologist, I love working with people, have written and published two books, have my own office, work also as a sports psychologist and hold various workshops. I have many English-speaking clients and without an English education I know I would not be able to fulfil the language needs required to carry out therapy in English, which has opened up many new possibilities for me.

**PAVEL MACHÁLEK (IB 2000)**  
Astrophysicist



Graduated from University College London before gaining a PhD in Astronomy at Johns Hopkins University, USA, working for NASA in California, on finding new Earth-sized planets and now co-founder of Spacehow Inc, tracking and predicting global economic trends utilising state of the art remote sensing platforms.

“Czech schools simply don’t care if the students get taught in an interactive and interesting way, but just

whether they can solve physics and chemistry problems without calculators. Overall I was more stimulated to acquire knowledge at the ECP than any time later either in college or when studying for my PhD, which was the acquisition of a lot of technically specific knowledge. ECP prepared me for what the IB calls “lifelong learning” and furthermore, it was a refreshingly intellectual environment. I am also grateful for the support that the English College Foundation provided me with during my years at University College London.”

**LUCIE URBANOVÁ (IB 2000)**  
Senior Political / Economic Officer, British Embassy Prague

I value very much the English College for giving me, besides proficiency in English and the internationally recognised IB Diploma, also a set of key skills (analytical, presentation, written communication, project work to name just a few), which have been incredibly useful not just for my university studies, but later in my professional life. Where others were learning from scratch, I was already building on what had become natural. Also, moving from a traditional Czech school, I was amazed by the



approach of the ECP staff, who were partners to our learning, and by the very friendly atmosphere generally. I am very grateful that thanks to the College I was able to complete my Masters studies in European Affairs in the UK, then work for the Czech Government Office and later, in the Political Section of the British Embassy in Prague, where I have been responsible for the economic and social policy agenda. Even though my children are still many years away from secondary education, I hope that my husband and I will be able to give them the same education as the College has given me.

**MIRIAM KÜRTÖSIOVÁ (IB 2005)**  
Senior Manager, Capital Markets Division of the Bank of England



Having graduated from Cambridge in the summer of 2009 with an MPhil degree in Economics, I joined the Bank of England’s graduate programme. I spent the first five years of my career in the Bank’s international directorate, covering the euro area. Then I moved to the Capital Markets Division in the Bank’s financial stability area. Currently, I work in the same area, as a Senior Manager. The ECP has been a great stepping stone to help me get where I am now. In particular, it helped me gain my

place at Cambridge university through its individual approach to each student’s needs and through the willingness of teachers to help students pursue their goals. Besides knowledge, the ECP teaches students to be independent thinkers, which is invaluable in the current fast-paced world.

**PETR FIMAN (IB 2004)**  
Senior Risk Specialist, Ezpada s.r.o.

An ECP education was the most formative experience of my life. Over my 6 years at the school I met so many great people, became fluent in English and German and passed the IB with 44 points, unlocking access to some of the most prestigious universities in the world. To this day, some 14 years after having left the school, all of my closest friends are from the ECP circle. Since leaving the ECP in 2004, I started my professional career at Deutsche Bank in 2007 in London and later moved to Bank of America Merrill Lynch in



2010 where most recently, I was a Director in the Global Markets Risk team. I spent 12 years working in risk management from the credit risk perspective. Recently, I decided to relocate to Prague to take up the position of Senior Risk Specialist with Ezpada s.r.o. Over the years, I have grown special ties to the ECP from the alumni angle too. I served as one of the Directors of the English College Foundation from 2012 to 2019 and I have been a member of the ECP Board of Governors since 2016. Wanting to “give back” to the ECP has always been on my mind and I know there are many others among the ECP alumni who want to ‘give back’ or are already doing so.

**MICHAELA EDGERLEY STOVIČEK (IB 2004)**  
**Head of Marketing, ING**



I graduated from the ECP in 2004 and have since completed my studies at Bath University and worked for various global corporations internationally; most recently I hold the position of Head of Marketing for ING here in Prague. The ECP has been a great springboard for my future life and career, providing me with the opportunity to think freely and challenge the status quo, focusing on topics that were of interest to me and encouraging me to always push my personal learning boundaries. The ECP also provided a very inspiring learning environment and took care to understand all our needs, wishes and ambitions.

**SANDRA SYKOROVA (IB 1999)**  
**Visual Anthropologist and Curator, Tate Modern**

I’m a visual anthropologist and curator based in London since 1999. My practice spans across film, photography, performance, research and curatorial projects. I received a BA in Social Anthropology from the London School of Economics, an MA in Visual Anthropology from Goldsmiths College and in 2004, I completed a two-year Chinese studies course at Peking University in Beijing. I’m a co-founder and director of Past Vyner Street, an independent project space in East London



presenting a range of works by international artists. In 2007, I joined Tate Modern where I now work as Curator of Public Programmes. I studied at the ECP from 1995 till 1999 and have such fond memories of this time, often looking back with great nostalgia. The education that I received there provided me with an invaluable foundation for the intellectual and creative path that I have followed since. In the post-socialist era of the early 90s in Prague, the College provided a unique space for the development of free and critical thinking, the exploration and exchange of ideas and experiences with an international community of students and teachers. It was a truly inspiring and formative period in my life. And we had so much fun too. The skiing trips with the Gavriněvs, History classes with Mr Beynon, Czech lessons with Mrs Bardová, Sartre with Mr Purdy... all really unforgettable. I guess, aside from being an excellent preparation for the university education that I chose to follow in the UK, the ECP years helped me develop my critical thinking, explore the world of ideas, cultures and human experiences; and above all made me actively stand for the open and democratic values that the College always represented and celebrated.

**PETR MIKYSKA (IB 2007)**  
**Corporate Commercial Manager, Network Rail**



After leaving the ECP in 2007, I studied Hispanic Studies at University College London and joined the UK’s railway infrastructure manager, Network Rail, in 2011. I worked in a variety of commercial and operational roles, becoming the Station Manager at Reading Station at the end of my tenure. I subsequently worked in commercial roles at transport conglomerate FirstGroup, including their subsidiaries Great Western Railway and Southwestern Railway. I re-joined Network Rail in 2019 and currently work in the Corporate Commercial function.

I attended international schools from age 5, but the English College offered by far the most friendly, engaging and open environment, with a really unique relationship between the faculty and students. I felt thoroughly prepared for university, the IB curriculum giving me a solid grounding in a variety of subjects as well as the expectations of higher education. It’s a real pleasure going back to the ECP and seeing it thrive - it is exactly the sort of school this world needs.

## NIKA KUPYROVA (IB 2004)

### Professional Artist and Exhibition Curator



Contemporary art is not just about skill – far more important is an ability to think creatively, come up with the unexpected and to be able to identify and acquire skills as you go along. Much of that I learned at the ECP, and I even have an inkling that my wish to pursue an art career originated there as well: it is a wonderful playground for curiosity and had and has teachers whose enthusiasm for their subject is contagious. A real purpose of school for me is learning to learn, respect your interests and have confidence to pursue them and this is exactly what the ECP is good at. I am a professional artist

and exhibition curator – after graduating from the English College I studied at the Edinburgh College of Art, Iceland Academy of the Arts and also recently at University of the Applied Arts in Vienna. I have been based in Vienna for the past ten years, but work internationally, travelling for projects as widely as USA and Azerbaijan, exhibiting and lecturing in contemporary art. Currently I am looking forward to spending three months in Moscow as a resident artist, by invitation of the Federal Chancellery of Austria, and to my upcoming exhibitions in Vienna, Ljubljana, Moscow and Prague.

[www.nikakupyrova.com](http://www.nikakupyrova.com)

## JAN BARTA (IB 2004)

### Entrepreneur

I am currently an entrepreneur and investor, mostly focused on the internet sector with projects such as ePojisteni.cz, the largest online car insurance comparison website in the Czech Republic, and various others such as Tarifomat.cz, SlevyDnes.cz, Favi.cz and JenPrace.cz I graduated from the English College in Prague in 2004. The ECP was an absolutely fantastic experience and a jumping block for my future career. It helped me develop vital skills I prize very highly (even more than the academic experience), such as staying constantly curious, the ability to reason and solve problems, and being able to give something back.

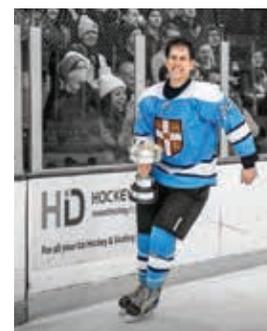


## THE BARTA SCHOLARSHIPS

Jan Barta, now a successful internet entrepreneur, generously funds six scholarships to enable promising young people who would not necessarily fit in well with the Czech school system to flourish at the College, as he believes he himself did. These scholarships can be for up to 100% of school fees. In addition, Barta Scholars receive a contribution towards living expenses and other co-curricular activities. Applications should be made via the Registrar after which (and after passing the entrance exams) interviews will take place. Holders of a Barta Scholarship are expected to help organise the annual concert for the Václav Havel Scholarship Fund and are required to undertake one additional charity project.

## Michal Barabas (IB 2009)

### Hospital Doctor, Všeobecná fakultní nemocnice v Praze



I graduated in 2009 and went on to study Pharmacology at UCL, initially wanting to pursue a career in pharmaceutical research. During my second year at UCL, I was given the opportunity to take a year out and work in that area as a research scientist, which was a great experience because it showed me that that career was not for me, and that I desired something more 'clinical'. Therefore, I later decided to pursue a career in medicine and managed to get a place on a graduate programme at Cambridge University where I spent the next

five years. After graduating from Cambridge, I completed my first Foundation year as a doctor and worked as a Senior House Officer in the Intensive Care Unit at the Royal Papworth Hospital in Cambridge but then decided to return to Prague to pursue further specialisation in Anesthesiology and Intensive Care. What role did the ECP play in my life? For me, it is mainly a place where I have formed some of my strongest relationships - not only making life-long friendships but also meeting my wife there. And I think it was because the ECP was able to create a sense of community where, despite differences in their backgrounds, students were taught to respect and learn from one another, work together, and stay open-minded. In large part, this was only possible thanks to some amazing teachers who were always keen to engage in discussion, no matter how hypothetical the questions might have been.

It also gave students opportunities to develop different talents from taking part in Model United Nations debates to learning camping skills in the Czech wilderness. Personally, one of my favourite times were Wednesdays after school when I could practise with the school band in the basement.

**Martin Vlk (IB 2003)**  
**Lawyer, Deloitte Legal**

I am a lawyer, working on Mergers & Acquisitions for Deloitte here in Prague, helping clients buying and selling companies. Thanks to the English College in Prague, I am dual-qualified, being both a solicitor in the UK and a Czech advokát. If I were to choose three things I am most grateful to the ECP for, I would choose: perspective, an open mind and friends. The ability to see matters from different perspectives and an open mind helps me to navigate through many challenging situations. The international environment I am used to from the English College helped me to integrate quickly in the several countries I have had the privilege to work in. But the thing that I value most is that almost all my friends even today are ECP graduates. Whether we do business together or just meet after work, we still share so many things. The ECP helped me to create a network of friends literally all around the world and this is truly invaluable.



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THE ENGLISH COLLEGE IN PRAGUE  
ANGLICKÉ GYMNÁZIUM

**The English College in Prague - Anglické gymnázium, o.p.s.**

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