2023/2024 Staff Introduction

We are very pleased to announce our management and teaching lineup for the 2023/2024 academic year.

Preparing for the Diploma Programme

To prepare for the Diploma Programme, we have appointed all staff necessary to lead the authorisation of the programme during 2023/2024. We have a talented mix of staff and we are excited to have them working on our Diploma Programme.

Group/role	Course	Teacher	
Group 1	Language A: English (SL/HL)	Jay Randall	
	Language A: Thai (SL/HL)	Kevin Charles	
Group 2	Language B: English (SL/HL)	Mark Abbadessa	
	Mandarin Ab Initio (SL)	Juan Yang	
Group 3	Business Management (SL/HL)	Mark Abbadessa	

	History (SL)	Jay Randall	
Group 4	Biology (SL/HL)	Charles Cejka	
	Chemistry (SL/HL)	Charles Cejka	
	Physics (SL/HL)	Dr. Stephen Nicoletti	
Group 5	Mathematics Applications and Interpretations (A&I) (SL/HL)	Dr. Stephen Nicoletti	
Group 6	Visual Arts (SL/HL)	Diana Afanador	
DP Core	Theory of Knowledge (TOK)	Charles Cejka	
	Extended Essay (EE) Coordinator	Charles Cejka	
	Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) Coordinator	Diana Afanador	

Management and pedagogical leadership



Head of School - Dr. Lindsay Stuart Video introduction for learners

Lindsay is an experienced school administrator with over 20 years experience working in education in Thailand. Lindsay hails from New Zealand, where he graduated from the University of Canterbury with Bachelor degrees in Arts and Science before completing a PhD in Information Systems. He also holds a Masters degree from Mahidol University in Thailand and a Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Administration from Massey University in New Zealand. Lindsay has an excellent understanding of educational administration, learning and technology and uses that knowledge to guide and shape exciting learning programmes for the students of UDIS.



Principal - Emmi Hines Video introduction for learners

Emmi holds a Master's Degree in Administration of Education. She has over 20 years in education and 8 of those in the IB settings. Emmi has a passion for approaching students with creativity, flexibility, openness, and compassion. She supports the ongoing commitment to UDIS teachers to be critical, reflective practitioners who value lifelong learning and this is reflective in her management style. Emmi is continuing her educational journey with UDIS for another year.

In her personal time, she enjoys traveling around the world to meet new people, loves reading all types of books and kicking back at the beach for some relaxation.



Assistant Principal in charge of the Middle Years - Mark Abbadessa

Video introduction for learners

Mark is a licensed teacher from America and began his teaching career in 2009. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology, Elementary Education & Special Education from William Paterson University. Mark received his Masters of Science Degree in Literacy from the University of New England. He has also been awarded a Professional Certificate in Leadership and Management in Education from the University of Newcastle Australia. Mark has worked in a wide variety of teaching and leadership roles in the USA, China and Thailand.

Mark enjoys teaching in IB schools and uses a vast variety of technology platforms during teaching lessons to capture the minds of his learners and to also build real world technology skills needed in today's society and workplace.

School Director - Sineenad Chamat Video introduction for learners

Sineenard (Nard) comes from Khon Kaen and holds a Bachelors Degree in Computer Education from Rajabhat Institute of Suan Dusit in Bangkok. She also holds a Masters of Education from Khon Kaen University. She has over 18 years of experience teaching a range of subjects in Thai schools including Thai language, social studies, Thai history and computing. Nard is a patient, hard working teacher who is always willing to learn new things and pass those onto her students.





Early Years Coordinator - Phibzia Siddiqui Video introduction for learners

Phibzia holds a Master's Degree in Education (TEFL) from the National University of Laos. She has also completed a Bachelor of Arts (B.A) and an Advanced diploma in "Early Childhood Development" from ECD-Affiliated Edith Cowan University (Australia). She has 13 years of teaching experience around Asia and has training and experience in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP). She has over 16 years in education and 7 of those in the IB settings. She has taught in Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos and Thailand.

Phibzia has a passion and the energy for English language learning and teaching across all levels of students. She is also very enthusiastic and passionate about teaching early years and loves to design play and inquiry based learning environments for the learners. She has been with the school for a number of years and brings an experienced, inquiry approach to our teaching in the Early Years.

Primary Years Coordinator - Thomas Karisa

Thomas is a qualified teacher from the UK with a Primary Education degree from Canterbury Christ Church University. He also holds the Certificate in School Management and Leadership from Harvard Graduate School of Education. With over 11 years of teaching and leadership experience, Thomas has worked in the UK, Kuwait, Thailand, Indonesia and Russia.

Thomas' personal interests include performing arts, international cuisine and environmental science. He is fascinated with many aspects of culture such as music, literature and traditions. Thomas also enjoys incorporating digital technology as a tool for enhancing and showcasing the learning process.

Thomas is enthusiastic about language learning and specialised in second language acquisition of young learners. He also passionately believes in the PYP learning philosophy as it promotes student agency, essential skills to nurture engaged lifelong learners and increased local and global community awareness. He is committed to fostering a learning environment that



	reflects the interests of the learners and inspires an active and collaborative wider community.
	Middle Years Programme Coordinator - Jay Randall <u>Video introduction for learners</u> Jay is a qualified teacher from Canada with a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of King's College, a Bachelor of Education from the University of Toronto, and a Master of Arts in Global History from Humboldt University and the Free University of Berlin. He has many years of success in teaching and coordinating IB subjects and programs with past roles as MYP Coordinator and Assistant DP Coordinator. He has previously worked at IB schools in Canada, Germany, and Antigua, as well as with the UN in Angola. Jay is joined at UDIS by his wife Marie and daughter Simone. Outside of the classroom he loves to get involved with outdoor education, school trips, student exchanges, and athletics to help guide students to become active citizens, realise their holistic potential and to develop student leadership, engagement, and community involvement.
<image/>	Diploma Programme Coordinator - Charles Cejka Video introduction for learners Charles is an experienced pedagogical leader and teacher with Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from the University of Waterloo in Canada. He also holds a Bachelor of Education from Trent University in Canada. He has 15 years of international teaching experience from schools in Saudi Arabia, Germany and the United Arab Emirates, and has served as a Head of Department and school leader in IB continuum schools for over 10 years. Most recently, he held the roles of IB Diploma Programme Coordinator and IB Career-related Programme Coordinator at an international school in Dubai. Charles is a passionate advocate of the IB philosophy and has been an examiner in Biology for the IB since 2015 as well as a content developer of resources to be used by IB teachers. As a global citizen, he enjoys working in the international school setting and embraces innovative teaching approaches to develop inquiry skills in learners.

Early years teachers



Preschool/K1 - Chananchida Sriwong

Chananchida (Dae) is our wonderful, new Preschool teacher. Dae has been with UDIS for over 5 years and joined us originally as a Teaching Assistant working with some of the best Early Years teachers we had at the school. Dae has both Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Humanities (English) and is a qualified teacher in Thailand having completed her Graduate of Teaching Diploma. Dae has a tremendous love for her learners and in Preschool works to settle them into school life and give them the skills they need to progress to K1.



Preschool/K1 - Phibzia Siddiqui Video introduction for learners

Phibzia holds a Master's Degree in Education (TEFL) from the National University of Laos. She has also completed a Bachelor of Arts (B.A) and an Advanced diploma in "Early Childhood Development" from ECD-Affiliated Edith Cowan University (Australia). She has 13 years of teaching experience around Asia and has training and experience in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP). She has over 16 years in education and 7 of those in the IB settings. She has taught in Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos and Thailand.

Phibzia has a passion and the energy for English language learning and teaching across all levels of students. She is also very enthusiastic and passionate about teaching early years and loves to design play and inquiry based learning environments for the learners. She has been with the school for a number of years and brings an experienced, inquiry approach to our teaching in the Early Years.



K2 - Henry Charlton Video introduction for learners

Henry is a qualified teacher from Newcastle in the UK and has been teaching in primary schools since he graduated from Manchester Metropolitan University back in 2006. He has taught in a variety of countries including Thailand, Saudi Arabia and the UK. Henry has also gained his DELTA, CELTA and CELTA young learner extension which makes him extremely well qualified for the second language learners we have in Early Years. Teaching is something that he is incredibly passionate about and he still approaches the occupation with the same energy and enthusiasm he did when he first started teaching.

In his spare time, Henry enjoys listening to music, playing guitar (badly), cooking and reading. He loves sports although these days it's more watching them than actually playing them. His favourites are cricket, rugby, boxing and Muay Thai and his goal in the near future is to learn how to sail.

Primary years teachers and specialists



Year 1 - Charlene Venter Video introduction for the community

Charlene (Charlie) is a passionate teacher from South Africa.

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Foundation Phase Teaching and has been teaching Year 1 for the past four years. For Charlene, teaching is not just a job, but a craft that can be honed indefinitely, and therefore she sees herself as a lifelong learner committed to personal development, ongoing reflection and growth.

Charlie values inquiry-based learning and encourages her students to ask questions and explore. She is committed towards her students' holistic development and sets up personalised learning goals with them. She prioritises building strong connections with her students and unlocking their love for learning.

In addition to her passion for teaching, Charlene is also an artist who enjoys various creative outlets such as painting, digital artwork and clay sculpting. She's interested in wellness, nature, our planet Earth, and ways to sustain and care for it. When not in the classroom, Charlene loves to spend time with her husband and two cats. Charlene is thrilled to be joining the UDIS community as the new Year 1 teacher and is looking forward to the learning journey ahead.



Year 2 - Yudha Nanoo

Yudha Nanoo is a qualified and licensed educator from South Africa with her Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Development (Foundation Phase) and also holds a TEFL. She has been working as a teacher since 2016 in South Africa and Korea and has also worked as an online teacher to Chinese, Taiwanese and Japanese students. During these years, Yudha has taught various subjects through the Early Years.

Yudha is a patient and motivated teacher who always possesses a positive and enthusiastic attitude in her classroom. She is extremely passionate about teaching and learning. "The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery," is a quote that is significant to her.

Yudha loves to explore nature as much as she enjoys relaxing at home. She also has an interest in travelling and indulging in different countries and their cultures. In her free time, Yudha enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading, doing yoga, and learning new skills.

At UDIS, Yudha aims to enrich the lives of all her students. She also eagerly looks forward to working alongside the staff and broadening her horizons.



Sara is our new Year 3 teacher and holds a PGCE from Newcastle University and a Masters in Science (Education) from the University of Edinburgh. Originally from Newcastle, Sara grew up in Wales and has since taught and lived all over the world, including Colombia and Vietnam. She has travelled extensively throughout Latin America, India and Southeast Asia, and is eager to continue exploring new cultures and languages. Sara can speak basic Spanish and hopes to pick up some Thai during her time at our school!

When she's not in the classroom, Sara loves to cook, travel, practice yoga, and read. She is deeply passionate about education and believes in fostering resilient, curious, and independent learners who are ready to adapt to the ever-changing demands of the future. Her favourite subjects to teach are Science and English, and she enjoys finding creative ways to engage her students in hands-on learning experiences that help them develop a lifelong love of learning.



With her experience and passion for education, Sara is excited to join our team of dedicated educators and help our students grow and thrive both inside and outside of the classroom.



Year 4 - Katharina Cejka Video introduction for the community

Katharina was born in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) but was fortunate enough to experience and live in different political systems and countries. Carrying the "Fernweh" gene, she has been able to travel extensively throughout Europe and nurture her love for languages. Katharina has studied in Germany and France. In her teaching career she has worked in the IB PYP in international schools in Germany and the United Arab Emirates for the past 15 years. She has extensive experience working with students of various cultural and academic backgrounds in all grades from 1-5. Katharina is trilingual and has a love for languages, she is very excited to learn Thai soon!

Katharina and her son Linus will join her husband Mr. Charles at UDIS. In her experience, building a partnership with students rather than deciding top-down, ensures a positive and successful learning time for everybody.

Katharina likes spending her free time with her family, reading, travelling, enjoying the outdoors or doing sports; she is especially passionate about horseback riding and horse racing.



Year 5 - John Kelly Video introduction for learners

John was born in Glasgow, Scotland, where it is usually cold, wet and windy and lived there for the first 16 years of his life before immigrating to Australia with his family. In Western Australia he was awarded a Bachelor of Education at Curtin University. John has taught in Australia, England, Turkey, Thailand, Qatar and Kuwait over three decades. During his time in these countries he has taught all grades of primary school.

John considers himself an open, creative and friendly teacher who is a keen advocate for the development of community within a school. John believes that students must be engaged, challenged and able to reflect independently and collaboratively about their learning.

John has worked at UDIS for six years and is looking forward to his next two years at the school. He is the health and safety

coordinator at the school and is also the school's Child Safeguarding Coordinator.

John is an active member of the Udon Thani community. He plays football with the local police officers and basketball with the UMT basketball team in town.



Year 6 - Thomas Karisa

Thomas is a qualified teacher from the UK with a Primary Education degree from Canterbury Christ Church University. He also holds the Certificate in School Management and Leadership from Harvard Graduate School of Education. With over 11 years of teaching and leadership experience, Thomas has worked in the UK, Kuwait, Thailand, Indonesia and Russia.

Thomas' personal interests include performing arts, international cuisine and environmental science. He is fascinated with many aspects of culture such as music, literature and traditions. Thomas also enjoys incorporating digital technology as a tool for enhancing and showcasing the learning process.

Thomas is enthusiastic about language learning and specialised in second language acquisition of young learners. He also passionately believes in the PYP learning philosophy as it promotes student agency, essential skills to nurture engaged lifelong learners and increased local and global community awareness. He is committed to fostering a learning environment that reflects the interests of the learners and inspires an active and collaborative wider community.

EAL Teacher - Liza Magbanua

Liza is a qualified teacher from the Phillipines holding a Diploma in Teacher Education and a Bachelor's degree from the Philippines' last ecological frontier, Palawan. She has also completed her 120-hour TEFL certification and her level 1 PYP training. Liza has worked at different international schools in Bangkok. She was part of the Learning Support Team at St Andrews International School Sathorn before becoming a Primary EAL Teacher at Rasami British International School and St Andrews International School 107.

Liza has been working as an EAL teacher for more than ten years and she has also gained a lot of experience supporting children with learning difficulties especially in Mathematics. Liza has also helped organise school events such as the World Education Games and Tournament of Minds to give learners an opportunity to demonstrate their collaboration and problem-solving skills in creative ways.



This is Liza's third year in our school and she is enjoying learning new things like Speech Therapy and teaching Drama to young learners.
Library and EY/PY Arts - Paul Surbey Paul is a qualified teacher from Canada. He graduated with a Bachelor of Education from the University of Winnipeg (2014) and EAL certification from the same university in 2008. He has worked previously in Canada before moving to Thailand and teaching in a variety of international schools here. Paul has been working with kids in music for almost 20 years, loves to play his guitar and enjoys teaching singing and dancing to kids. Paul has particular expertise in reggio inspired curriculum, the PYP and problem based learning. He has a strong track record of cultivating child-centred curriculum and student creativity. Pauls endeavours to be a warm and caring teacher who wants all students to be flourishing learners and he works hard to create a classroom environment that is exciting, supportive and adaptive to the various needs of his students.
PSPE (EY and PY) - Gabriel Avelino de Sousa Gabriel is a qualified teacher from Brazil and holds a Bachelor's and Postgraduate course in physical education from the University Center of Brasilia. He is a professional physical education and swimming teacher who has over 9 years experience teaching children. Recently, Gabriel is most proud of creating the first football team in his previous school and winning a regional tournament with his team and he is looking forward to repeating this with UDIS!. He has experience working with special needs students and has led intervention activities to pupils in previous schools, having achieved great results and benefits to his students.Gabriel loves travelling and getting to know new cultures around the world. He loves learning new languages and is fluent in 3 different languages and wants to learn more! He is also a huge fan of photography and videography and loves to take pictures and fly his drone around.

Middle years teachers



MYP Individuals & Societies and Language & Literature (English) - Jay Randall

Video introduction for learners

Jay is a qualified teacher from Canada with a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of King's College, a Bachelor of Education from the University of Toronto, and a Master of Arts in Global History from Humboldt University and the Free University of Berlin. He has many years of success in teaching and coordinating IB subjects and programs with past roles as MYP Coordinator and Assistant DP Coordinator. He has previously worked at IB schools in Canada, Germany, and Antigua, as well as with the UN in Angola.

Jay is joined at UDIS by his wife Marie and daughter Simone. Outside of the classroom he loves to get involved with outdoor education, school trips, student exchanges, and athletics to help guide students to become active citizens, realise their holistic potential and to develop student leadership, engagement, and community involvement.



MYP English Language & Literature, Language Acquisition (English) and Assistant Principal

- Mark Abbadessa

Video introduction for learners

Mark is a dual licensed teacher from America and began his teaching career in 2009. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Elementary Education with a specialisation in Special Education from William Paterson University. Mark has also achieved a Masters Degree in Literacy from the University of New England. He has attended additional postgraduate teaching courses at North Dakota State University. Mark has completed multiple PYP and MYP training courses as well as received his TEFL certificate. He has worked in both public and international school settings in the USA, China and Thailand and has taught children from Kindergarten up to Year 9.

Mark enjoys teaching in IB schools and uses a vast variety of technology platforms during teaching lessons to capture the minds of his students and to also build real world technology skills needed in today's society and workplace.



MYP Mathematics, MYP Science - Dr. Stephen Nicoletti Dr. Steve Nicoletti is certified through the Florida State Department of Education to teach grades 6-12 physics, mathematics and physical science. Dr. Steve began his formal teaching career in 1992 after graduating with a BS in physics from Purdue University. After receiving his Phd. in computational physics in 2006 from the University of Arkansas, Dr. Steve taught physics and mathematics to MYP, DP and AP students in the USA and abroad. An avid traveller, he has taught in several countries including China, Brazil, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Dr. Steve is passionate about science and mathematics and enjoys engaging his students with inquiry based learning activities. His motto in the classroom is "to gladly teach and gladly learn" because authentic teaching and learning is always a pleasurable experience.

To relax and unwind, Dr. Steve enjoys all forms of exercise especially swimming, cycling and weight lifting. When not in the gym, Dr. Steve is an amateur radio enthusiast and has won several awards, such as the NSTA/Toyota Tapestry Grant and a NASA Space Grant for using amateur radio in the mathematics and science classroom. Dr. Steve looks forward to sharing his enthusiasm for amateur radio with UDIS students.

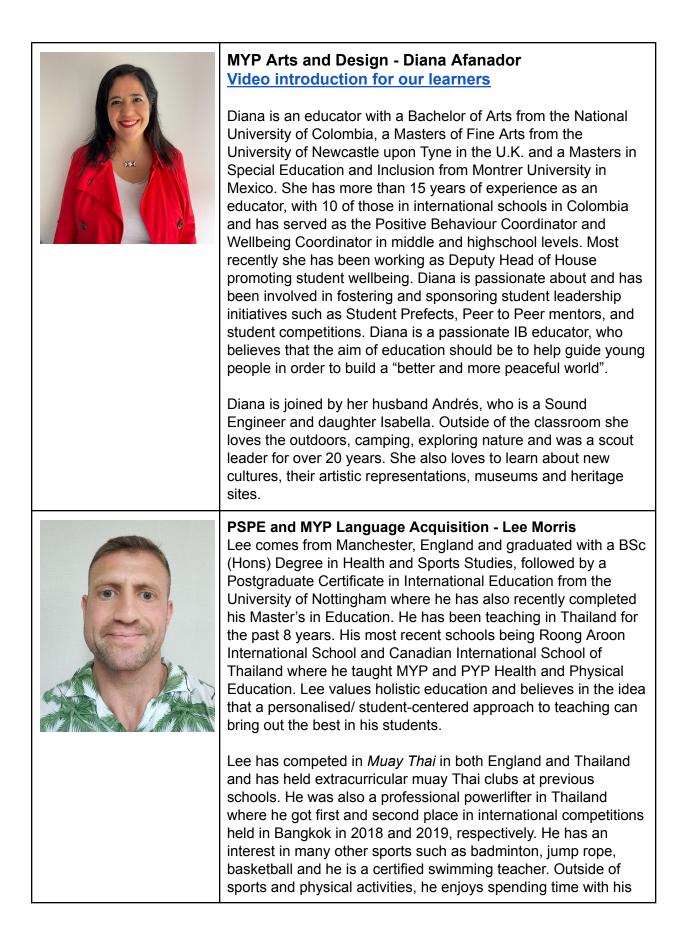


MYP Science - Charles Cejka

Video introduction for learners

Charles is an experienced pedagogical leader and teacher with Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from the University of Waterloo in Canada. He also holds a Bachelor of Education from Trent University in Canada. He has 15 years of international teaching experience from schools in Saudi Arabia, Germany and the United Arab Emirates, and has served as a Head of Department and school leader in IB continuum schools for over 10 years. Most recently, he held the roles of IB Diploma Programme Coordinator and IB Career-related Programme Coordinator at an international school in Dubai.

Charles is a passionate advocate of the IB philosophy and has been an examiner in Biology for the IB since 2015 as well as a content developer of resources to be used by IB teachers. As a global citizen, he enjoys working in the international school setting and embraces innovative teaching approaches to develop inquiry skills in learners.



family, reading, cryptocurrencies, gardening and he has a strong interest in Buddhist philosophy.	ıg
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Whole school specialist teachers



Kevin has worked to become principled, open-minded, and risk-taking in his current career as a teacher. In his spare time, Kevin enjoys reading and listening to podcasts about Thai and international literature, especially mythology. This academic year, he will be the Primary Years and Middle Years specialist teacher in Thai Language and Literature for his 6th year at UDIS. Thai Language Teacher - Sirikan Lock Sirikarn (Oil) is from Non Daeng in Nakhon Ratchasima. She completed her Bachelor of Arts (English) at Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University and will complete her Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching in June, 2023. She has also completed a 120 hours TEFL certificate. In addition to her native Thai, she also speaks English and Swedish. Oil has been a Teaching Assistant at UDIS for the last 4 years and will draw from that experience in her new role as a Thai language teacher. Oil is enthusiastic and passionate about teaching and has helped primary years students in her home village. She has a love for cooking both Thai and International food. She enjoys watching international movies and loves her garden full of exotic plants. Oil is also a keen traveller and has lived in Europe and the Middle East. Afterschool Mandarin teacher and DP Mandarin Ab Initio teacher for 2024/2025 - Juan Yang Juan (June) is certified to teach Mandarin Chinese to K12 students through Sichuan University in Chengdu, China. June has worked with students in China, Brazil and Pakistan, creating hands-on activities that engage students in conversation and written reflection. June is currently completing her DP training for Mandarin Chinese and developing activities for the 2023/2024 UDIS after school program. In her spare time, June enjoys a variety of activities such as swimming, reading and baking. One of her favourite pastimes is playing the piano, the guitar and the violin, skills that she is always trying to improve upon. June looks forward to sharing her love of both music and baking with UDIS students as part of the afterschool program during the upcoming school year.