

# Study UK Alumni Awards

## Confidentiality and Use of Data

In line with EU GDPR law, all application data has been treated as confidential throughout the judging and shortlisting process by everyone involved.

## Conflict of Interest

All applications are anonymised for the judging process and judges take conflict of interest very seriously to ensure the integrity of the process, including signing relevant agreements. If judges recognise an applicant, they are required to state any conflict of interest immediately. Any judge disclosing a conflict of interest is excluded from assessing the specific application and scores are provided by other members of the judging panel only.



## Nicholas Fulton

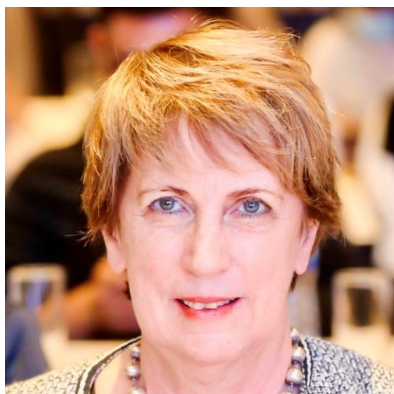
Deputy Consul General

Nico Fulton is currently Deputy Consul General in Istanbul, Türkiye. Prior to this role, he was the Political and Economic Counsellor at the British Embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine, where he was responsible for UK political and economic engagement.

Nico has held various positions within the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). He served as the Head of the Political and Prosperity Section at the British Embassy in Kinshasa, Congo (DRC) from 2018 to 2022, and as the Head of the Political and Economic Section at the British Embassy in Caracas, Venezuela, from 2015 to 2018.

Earlier in his career, Nicholas was the Crisis Manager and Kidnap for Ransom Policy Lead in London, and the Team Leader for the Arms Export Policy Department for Africa and the Americas. He also worked as a Tuberculosis Epidemiologist at the Health Protection Agency in the UK.

Nicholas holds a Master's degree in Demography and Epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Durham University.



## Gill Caldicott

Country Director, British Council

Gill is a senior leader at the British Council with over 30 years experience of working in cultural relations around the world. Her leadership roles entail delivering impact across the portfolio of British Council's programmes – education, arts and English. She has worked in more than 10 countries across four continents. Her most recent posts were in East China, Sri Lanka, India and Portugal. She is currently the Director of the British Council in Turkey.

She has a degree in Literature, an MA in Applied Linguistics, and an MBA as well as qualifications in teaching, marketing, programme management, and leadership. She is also a qualified coach and mentor.

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## Gary Benham

Head of Communications and Bilateral Programmes, British Embassy

Gary Benham is a career diplomat that joined the team at the British Embassy Ankara in July 2023. Gary's previous assignments with the UK's Diplomatic Service have included postings to Chile, Tunisia, Cambodia, South Africa, and the Cayman Islands. He is passionate about promoting education opportunities in the UK and is proud the Britain is home to four of the top ten Universities in the world.



## Kağan Karamanoğlu

Strategy Consultant

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)  
and University of Kent alumni

Kağan is a strategy consultant. He previously led PwC Türkiye's strategy consulting arm Strategy& (formerly Booz & Company) Türkiye. Kağan focuses on growth strategies, go-to-market strategies, commercial due diligences as well as transformation and turn-around programmes.

Before joining Strategy&, Kağan held several positions at Türk Telekom Group and prior to that, he was a Principal at Booz & Company/Booz Allen Hamilton. Kağan was born and grew up in Vienna. He is fluent in German, English, Turkish and French.

Kağan holds an MSc. in Management from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and a BSc in Computer Science with Management Science from the University of Kent at Canterbury, London, UK.

# Study UK Alumni Awards



## Dr Ahmet Acar

Associate Professor, ODTU and CEO & Founder HistoCan  
Alumni of Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute.  
Study UK Alumni Awards, Science and Sustainability Award, 2024

Dr. Ahmet Acar completed his undergraduate studies at Middle East Technical University (METU). He then enrolled in a PhD programme and received his PhD degree in 2012 from Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute. Next, Dr. Acar worked as a postdoctoral training fellow on cellular and cancer biology fields at the University of Manchester and the Institute of Cancer Research in London, respectively. As of the beginning of 2020, Dr. Acar returned Turkey to establish his own research group at METU with the support of TÜBİTAK International Fellowship for Outstanding Researchers Program. Dr. Acar's lab focuses on understanding the underlying mechanisms of drug resistance using evolutionary principles. Dr. Acar is the founder and CEO of a startup company, HistoCan, based at METU Teknopark.



## Berke Çaplı

Founder of Kızbaşına, Chair, NATO STO, Research Task Group  
University of Edinburgh and University of Essex alumni

Berke Çaplı co-founded KızBaşına in 2017, an award-winning initiative combatting gender-based violence in Turkey, which has reached millions through advocacy, education, and policy-driven interventions. That same year, he participated in the U.S. State Department's International Visitors Leadership Program on Countering Violent Extremism. He later served as an advisor to the Ankara Municipality, contributing to local governance and policy initiatives. As a defense education expert, he has led NATO-backed initiatives on gamification, cyber resilience, and AI-driven decision support systems, training over 400 officers and advising governmental bodies. Now a PhD student at the University of Edinburgh and an alumnus of the University of Essex, he continues to merge his expertise in political science, technology management, and policy to drive impactful social change. In 2023, he received the NATO STO SAS Panel Early Career Analyst Award for his contributions to defense research and wargaming methodologies.



**Esra Aysun**

Head of Arts, British Council Turkey

Esra A. Aysun, is an arts administrator, working as a consultant, lecturer and writer in the creative sectors in Istanbul, Turkey. Achieving her BA in Sociology at BU (Istanbul) and MA at Administration of Performing Arts, NYU, (New York), she has been working with a diverse range of creative institutions and delivering lectures on arts management. Working as Head of Arts at the British Council in Turkey since 2014, she is committed to initiating creative projects to develop intercultural dialogue. Esra acts as the curatorial lead of WOW- Women of the World Festival Istanbul, missioned to unite creative sectors with civil society on gender equality activism. A board member of Arter since 2019, Esra writes and talks on the impact of inclusive arts management and gender inequality in the creative sectors. Her past and current notes can be read at [esraaysun.org](http://esraaysun.org).



**Ulya Soley**

Curator and Publications Editor

University of the Arts London, Central Saint Martins alumni

Study UK Alumni Awards, Culture and Creativity Award Winner, 2022

Ulya Soley works at Pera Museum as a curator and publications editor. She completed her MA in Culture, Criticism and Curation at Central Saint Martins, and her BA in Art History and Psychology at McGill University. Her recent curatorial projects include 'Souvenirs of the Future' at Pera Museum, 'all familiar, all foreign' at Versus Art Project, and 'How shall we dress for the occasion?' at 601 Artspace in New York. Her writing appeared in publications such as Texte zur Kunst, CTM Magazine, Art agenda, Manifold, callingmag, Argonotlar, The Believer Logger, Art unlimited, K24 and borderless. In her recent projects, she's mainly interested in exploring future scenarios through a queer feminist lens. Using speculative thinking as a methodology, she is researching ways of establishing a horizontal relationship with nature against the cultural dominance of patriarchy and capitalism.