

UKAP COMMUNITY

UK Albanian Professionals



UK ALBANIAN
PROFESSIONALS

03 May 2024



What an exciting few months it has been for UKAP! We've hosted a series of panel discussions bringing together leading voices from the Albanian professional community in the UK.

Let us share some highlights with you:

- We had an engaging talk with Elona Mortimer-Zhika, CEO of IRIS Software Group, focusing on women in tech
- It was a privilege to have an intimate audience with Ambassador Uran Ferizi, discussing cultural and educational ties
- Erdit Hoxha of Goldman Sachs shared insights into the finance industry at the London School of Economics
- And we went on a deep dive into financial literacy with experts at King's College London.

These events showcased the diversity and resilience of our community, but also provided us with invaluable networking and learning opportunities.

We extend a thank you to all our speakers, volunteers and attendees for your contributions that make our events special. We invite each and every one of you to stay engaged with our upcoming activities.

“We (Albanians) are Great Britain’s best friend in Europe. We love them the most and they can rely on us”

— HE Uran Ferizi, page 2

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Meet an Albanian CEO: Elona Mortimer-Zhika

On 28th February, we hosted a panel event with Elona Mortimer-Zhika, CEO of IRIS Software Group, a company valued at over £3 billion. The event focused on her journey and efforts to empower women in technology. Attended by HE Uran Ferizi and over 100 individuals, it highlighted the importance of diversity and mentorship in the technology sector. We thank Elona, volunteers and attendees and look forward to continuing these important conversations to promote inclusivity in the tech industry.



An Audience with Ambassador Uran Ferizi

At the Albanian Embassy in London on 12 March, we had the privilege of engaging with HE Uran Ferizi, who shared his insights on strengthening Albania-UK ties through education, trade, and culture. Organised by UKAP, this event provided our community with the opportunity to interact directly with the Ambassador. HE Ferizi described UKAP as a "cultural embassy," a phrase that holds particular significance for our organisation. Given its impact, this quote has been featured on the front page of this newsletter, highlighting the Ambassador's high regard for our efforts.

"We (Albanians) are Great Britain's best friend in Europe. We love them the most and they can rely on us." — HE Uran Ferizi

Meet an Albanian Trader: Erdit Hoxha



At the London School of Economics on 25th March, over 100 people joined for a talk with Erdit Hoxha, Managing Director at Goldman Sachs. Erdit shared his journey from humble beginnings to a prominent position in global finance, emphasising resilience and passion as key factors for professional success. His commitment to mentorship was inspiring, as he expressed a strong belief in nurturing talent. Erdit discussed the evolving dynamics of global markets, importance of ethical leadership in finance, and strategies for developing inclusive growth. He also expressed confidence in the talents emerging from Albania, stating, "I firmly believe in the human capital in Albania." The event showcased Erdit's professional ethos and served as motivation for aspiring financiers and entrepreneurs.

"I firmly believe in the human capital in Albania" — Erdit Hoxha



Financial Literacy Panel at King's College London

On 19th April, at King's College London, financial experts Eriona Bajrakurtaj, Sead Haxhijaha and Afrim Svarqa captivated an audience with their inspiring journeys and financial expertise. They delved into topics such as tax optimisation, credit management and mortgage planning. Eriona Bajrakurtaj discussed managing large accounts and financial growth strategies, drawing from her background in accounting and strategic insight from Oxford. Sead Haxhijaha highlighted the resilience needed to succeed in high-stakes finance, sharing his journey from Rahovec to leadership in the hedge fund industry. Afrim Svarqa emphasised the importance of diligent financial planning and education in achieving financial independence, based on his wealth management experience. This event showcased financial acumen and resilience, inspiring attendees to overcome adversity and empower themselves financially.

UKAP Networking Events

We're excited to share the success of our recent networking events, which collectively brought together over 400 Albanian professionals from diverse sectors, including investment banking, marketing, law, accounting, medicine and technology. These gatherings celebrated the vibrant Albanian professional community in the UK, providing a platform for people to connect, share experiences and celebrate their collective heritage and achievements. From eager students to seasoned executives, the events showcased the incredible talent within our community and encouraged collaboration. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to the success of these events, especially our dedicated volunteers and enthusiastic participants. We look forward to hosting more gatherings in the future, continuing to nurture and expand this vibrant community.

Event Photos

Check out the photos below to see if you were captured at our last event!



Internship Programme at the Albanian Embassy in London

UKAP was pleased to offer an internship opportunity for young professionals and students in our community. In collaboration with the Albanian Embassy in London, we sought four or five outstanding candidates interested in exploring diplomacy and international relations. The internship, set to commence soon, will provide practical experience in current affairs, social media, community engagement and data analysis. Though unpaid, the experience and recognition gained will contribute to personal and professional growth.

UK Albanian Embassy Internship Opportunity

UKAP supporting with the application process

Get real-world experience, gain an insight into diplomacy and international relations and develop the skills that will help further your career

PRACTICE AREAS

- Current affairs preparation
- Social media presence
- Community engagement
- Internal affairs and organisation

DETAILS

- 4 successful applicants on-site and virtual
- Minimum commitment of 6 months
- No remuneration
- The internship is officially recognised and can be referenced

Apply now at ukalbanianprofessionals.org



UKAP Mentoring Scheme

The UKAP Mentoring Scheme is supported by a dedicated group of Albanian professionals who volunteer as mentors. Drawing on their knowledge, experience, and personal insights, our mentors are committed to guiding ambitious students and recent graduates of Albanian origin. We've successfully matched the first cohort of mentors with mentees, facilitating relationships that enhance personal and professional development. By offering their advice and mentorship, our mentors play a crucial role in shaping the professional futures of the next generation and contributing to the future prosperity of the Albanian community. Applications remain open, so don't forget to apply via our website.



APPLICATIONS STILL OPEN!

ukalbanianprofessionals.org/mentoring/



As a mentee, what did you like most about the mentoring programme and how did the programme help?

Being a part of the UKAP mentorship programme allowed me to access an established group of successful members of the Albanian diaspora in the UK, as well as a mentor who works in the specific industry that I aspire to. In comparison to similar programmes, I believe the accessibility of the UKAP mentorship programme sets it apart. To the credit of my mentor, but also the wider organisation, the programme provided me with invaluable opportunities to speak with financial professionals and a support system while I transitioned from sixth form into university and applied for internships.

GENTI BAHJA

Undergraduate Student at LSE; Upcoming Intern at Caledonia Investments

UKAP Mentoring Scheme Testimonial

We're pleased to share a recent success story from our mentorship scheme! Thanks to the dedicated guidance of one of our mentors, a mentee – Genti Bahja has secured a position at Caledonia Investments. This achievement highlights the effectiveness of our mentorship scheme and emphasises the power of support and guidance within our community.

“To the credit of my mentor, but also the wider organisation, the programme provided me with invaluable opportunities to speak with financial professionals and a support system while I transitioned from sixth form into university and applied for internships” — Genti Bahja

New Series: TOP TIPS

Welcome to our NEW series where we break down the UKAP mentorship programme to its basics. In the first post of the series, we shared our top five tips and tricks to give you the best shot at being matched with a mentor.

Your mentorship scheme application form will be reviewed by a volunteer, providing you with the ideal opportunity to make a great first impression by showcasing your commitment, enthusiasm, and needs, allowing us to match you with the perfect mentor.

View all five tips on our LinkedIn or Instagram.

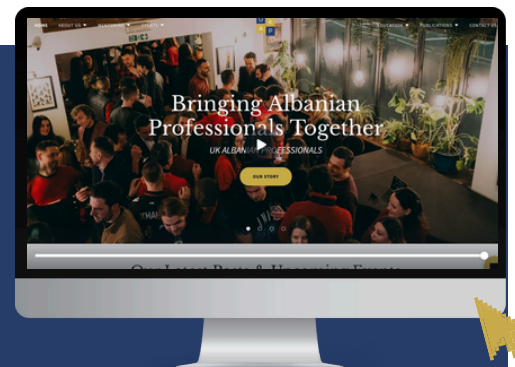


Collaborations and special thanks

Thank you to the university societies we have collaborated with:

- Imperial Albanian Society
- UCL Albanian Society
- LSE Albanian Society
- King's College London Albanian Society.

If you are a university society or interested in collaborating with us, please reach out via email.



A very special thank you to:

- Laura Sheshi and Murat Doka for their work on updating our website
- Julian Bektashi for his time taking photos at our events
- And all the rest of our volunteers. We wouldn't be anything without your help!



Volunteer with us

Get in touch via
ukap@ukalbanianprofessionals.org

LET'S CHAT!

