

India-UK higher education conference

18-19 September 2023
New Delhi

Handbook





The facade of our Delhi Library and Cultural Centre is a mural designed by the UK artist Howard Hodgkin symbolic of our mission of building deeper trust and connections between India and the U.K.



India-UK higher education conference

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Welcome to India and to the British Council's *Strengthening India-UK Partnerships in Education* conference at our office in Delhi, a building which symbolises the interconnections between the UK and India and the perfect location to spark further connections between our two countries.

We are delighted that we have a very distinguished UK delegation joining the conference, led by Prof. Sir Steve Smith, UK's International Education Champion accompanied by representatives of the Department of Business and Trade, Department of Education and leaders from Universities and Institutions from across England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. We are also delighted to welcome Maddalaine Ansell, Director for Education at the British Council.



To interact and exchange thoughts and ideas over the next two days we also welcome senior representatives from the Government of India to share their policy perspectives and priorities. Leaders from education institutions and bodies from across the country will share their ideas, thoughts and practices on how they envisage their partnerships and collaborations to contribute towards high quality education and better two-way exchange between India and the UK.

The third birthday of the NEP 2020 was held at the Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam 2023 at Pragati Maidan this year and I was fortunate to join the celebrations and hear PM Modi speak in person about how critical it is in India's goal to be a developed nation by 2047, one hundred years after independence. The words that stayed with me then and that I heard again at the G20 Education Ministerial meeting which I attended with Minister Gibb was 'the world is one family' and truly, without collaboration we will have no future and no solutions to global problems. International collaboration is at the heart of the British Council's mission and we're delighted to be working with all of you to help realise India's ambitions to internationalise its education system.

We were also honoured to receive Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at the British Council when he was here for the G20 Leaders' Summit. In his press statement he referenced the progress we had made against the India-UK Roadmap 2030, particularly the signing of the mutual recognition of qualifications agreement. We are proud to have played an important part in securing this. Education and skills development are important pillars of the Roadmap and the G20 Leaders' Declaration. The roadmap explicitly refers to promoting and supporting greater mobility between students, academics and researchers and this can only be achieved by strengthening collaboration between our two countries.

However, we know that collaboration between higher education institutions can be both, hard and easy at the same time. It requires the meeting of minds, goals and resources, understanding of process and regulations, great leadership skills and a deep commitment to navigate all of this successfully. We work closely with our partners across government to make sure you have access to the collective insight and networks to help you on your journey.

We hope that this conference will provide you with the opportunity to learn more about the opportunities for internationalisation through very informative sessions by experts, policymakers and leaders of Institutions from both countries. They would also like to learn from your deep understanding of the India context and so we look forward to your contributions and insight in each of the sessions.

Thank you for being a part of India-UK higher education conference.

Best wishes

Alison Barrett MBE

Country Director India, British Council



About the British Council

The vision for the British Council's work in India is:

A shared future created by and for young people from India and the UK.

We believe that stronger connections and greater opportunities for young people will lead to deeper India-UK knowledge, understanding and trust.

Education is at the heart of what we do. We build long-term partnerships that enable high quality education for improved learner outcomes and greater socio-economic impact.

We work in two ways:

- directly with millions of individuals to help them gain the skills, confidence and connections to transform their lives, and
- with governments and partners to make a bigger difference, creating benefit for hundreds of millions of people across India.

Our work aligns to the priorities agreed in the India-UK 2030 Roadmap

Expanding cooperation between our universities, including by agreeing mutual recognition of qualifications, simplification of the education regulatory framework and greater international collaboration.

- Internationalisation of Indian universities through TNE collaborations with the UK, capacity building and advising UK HEIs on setting up international branch campuses in India.
- Introducing multidisciplinary approaches and gender equity in HE sector.
- Supporting India-UK partnerships in the schools sector which address systemic changes around assessment, multilingual education, sports integration and more.

Our flagship programmes are:

- **Going Global Partnerships programme** aims to enhance UK-India collaboration through conferences and policy dialogues such as this one; seed fund initial teaching-learning collaborations as new regulations on joint and dual degrees become effective; and support gender equity in higher education through projects such as the Gender Advancement in Transforming Institutions (GATI), project designed and delivered in partnership with India's Department of Science and Technology and the UK's Advance HE in collaboration with over 30 HEIs from India and the UK.
- **UK India Education Research Initiative** (UKIERI) which we deliver on behalf of UK and Indian governments aims to bring about transformational change for society through science, research and innovation partnerships.



India is the second largest student sending country to the UK as per HESA - nearly one third of overseas students in the UK are now from India. We are proud that the high quality of education in the UK attracts large numbers of students, but we would like to reach students who do not have the means to study overseas through scholarships and different models of TNE education, harnessing the power of technology and Ed tech innovation.

British Council's Education Insights and Engagement provides evidence based, data and policy analysis and on-the-ground insights to support higher education sectors globally on student mobility and partnerships. For India-UK reports, access

<https://www.britishcouncil.in/our-research-and-publications>

- **Scholarships**

The UK offers a range of scholarships for students who want to explore opportunities for financial assistance. These include British Council scholarships like the GREAT and Women in STEM scholarships, scholarships funded by the Commonwealth, Chevening and Charles Wallace India Trust programmes, as well as scholarships by UK Higher Education Institutions and organisations.

<https://www.britishcouncil.in/study-uk/scholarships>

- **Agents and Counsellors' Hub**

The British Council works closely with education agents and counsellors to ensure we maintain and improve the quality of student experience. In collaboration with our sector partners such as British Universities' International Liaison Association (BUILA), Universities UK, UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA), Association of Colleges, Council of British International Schools (COBIS) and English UK, we have created a suite of resources designed specifically for education agents and counsellors. Currently 3000 agents and counsellors from India are registered on the hub, which hosts a training suite, a quality framework and other key resources.

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/agents-counsellors>

- **Alumni UK**

Alumni UK is our new global network for people from around the world who have studied in the UK as an overseas student. Alumni can grow their worldwide professional network, continue learning and share their experience and expertise with others through this platform.

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/study-work-abroad/alumni-uk>

If you would like to learn more about our programmes, read our research reports, blogs and keep in touch with us, do visit our website and subscribe to our higher education [newsletter](#).



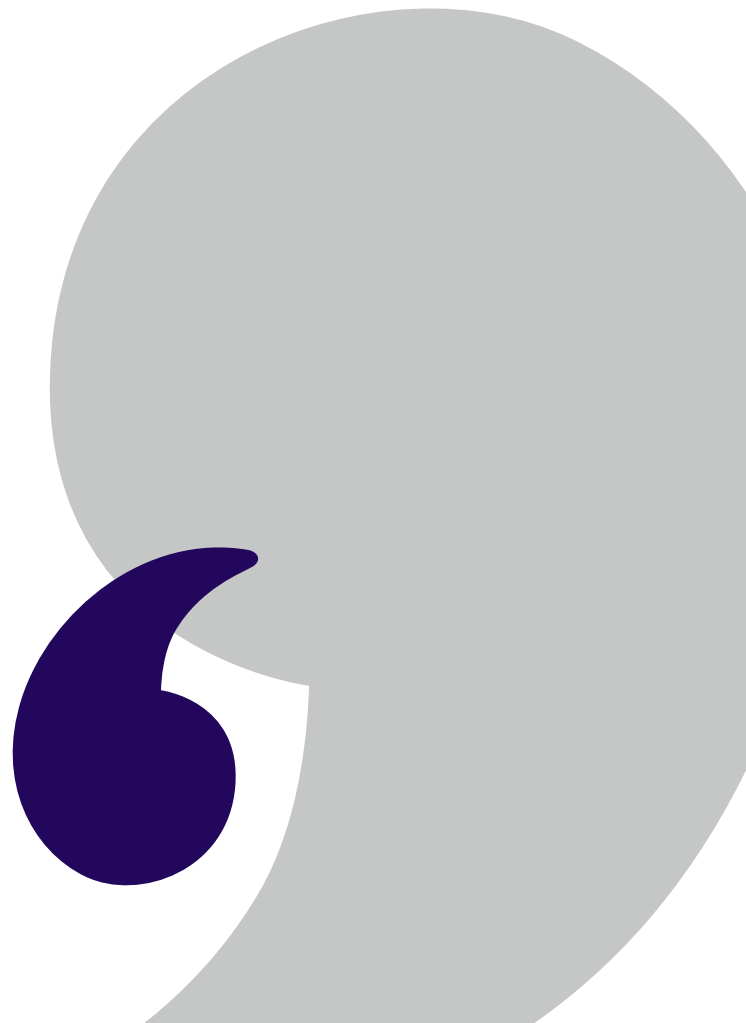
About the conference

The purpose of the conference is to:

- build common understanding of the policy landscape and regulatory environment to enhance collaboration between UK and India.
- share understanding of the emerging opportunities for UK-India collaboration in education, research, and innovation.
- explore potential collaboration opportunities in critical cross cutting areas such as gender and climate action and other G20 priorities in higher education and research.
- explore opportunity for supporting capacity building for internationalisation of higher education.

The sessions have been curated to have a series of panel discussions and you will have the opportunity to see an exhibition on the work that we have done over the past three years in higher education as a part of our Going Global Partnerships programme.

Scan the QR code to see the latest programme:





18 September 2023

Session 1: 1345–1500 | Inaugural Session

Speakers

Prof. Sir Steve Smith, International Education Champion, UK Government

Maddalaine Ansell, Director Education, British Council

Alison Barrett MBE, Country Director India, British Council

Neeta Prasad, Joint Secretary, International Cooperation Cell, Ministry of Education

Moderator: Rittika Chanda Parruck, Director Education India, British Council

Professor Sir Steve Smith

International Education Champion, UK Government

Sir Steve is instrumental in driving the UK Government's International Education Strategy, spearheading the UK's international education activity and developing strong partnerships with the UK's key international partners. Sir Steve led the most recent higher education delegation to India in 2019, in his role as Chair of UUK International. Sir Steve has taken part in two UK Prime Ministerial visits to India and, as Vice Chancellor of the University of Exeter, from 2002-2020 and Chair of UUK International from 2013-2020 developed extensive links with Indian institutions and colleagues.



Neeta Prasad (IAS)

Joint Secretary and Head of International Cooperation Cell Ministry of Education Government of India

Ms. Neeta Prasad, Joint Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education is an Indian Information Service Officer of 1991 Batch. She is heading the International Cooperation Cell of Ministry of Education.



India-UK higher education conference

Handbook



Maddalaine Ansell

Director Education, British Council

Maddalaine Ansell joined the British Council as Director Education in November 2018. Prior to this she was Chief Executive of University Alliance, a mission group representing professional and technical universities. Maddalaine previously worked for 15 years as a Civil Servant including roles in the Treasury, Number 10, the Home Office and the then Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. She began her career as a corporate lawyer, working for both Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer and Sullivan & Cromwell. Maddalaine leads the British Council's Global Education Strategy and Portfolio working collaboratively with colleagues in British Council offices across the world and with HMG, the Devolved Administrations, and the Higher Education Sector.



Alison Barrett MBE

Director India, British Council

Alison Barrett MBE is the Country Director of the British Council in India leading all operations across Education, Arts & Culture and the English language.

Alison has worked for the British Council for over 25 years in a variety of country, regional and global level roles in our Teaching, Examinations and Cultural Engagement departments building connections between the UK and our network overseas. Most of her career has been spent in the Asia-Pacific region, including India (where she was based for 20 years and has recently returned), Pakistan, UAE and Thailand.

Alison holds an MA from the Institute of Education, University College London and in 2014 was awarded an MBE for services to the teaching and learning of English in India.



Rittika Chanda Parruck

Director Education India, British Council

Rittika is the Director Education for British Council in India. She has over 25 years of experience in the education sector in a variety of roles. She began her career as a research scholar working on drug clearance systems and then went on to teach biology to secondary school students for six years at a residential school. She joined the British Council 18 years ago and led many flagship schools and higher education programmes like the International School Award and Connecting Classrooms amongst others. In her current role, she is responsible for the strategic direction of British Council's education portfolio in India – one of the largest education systems in the world. Some of her recent achievements include deepening education collaborations between UK and India through the formalisation of the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications (MRQ) policy and, the conceptualisation and delivery of new higher education programmes in India such as the Going Global Partnerships.





Session 2: 1500–1600 | Partnerships supporting transnational education impact and reach

Abstract: The session will look at trends and opportunities in TNE partnerships in the context of policy reforms to promote internationalisation of the Indian education system.

Speakers

Prof. M Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman, University Grants Commission

Prof. Agnes Nairn, Pro Vice-Chancellor Bristol University

Moderator: Prof. Sir Steve Smith, International Education Champion, Government of UK

Prof. Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar

Chairman University Grants Commission (UGC)

Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar obtained received his MS(EE) and PhD(EE) degrees from the Dept of Electrical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras and did his post-doctoral research at Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. He is a Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering at IIT Delhi.

He is presently the Chairman of University Grants Commission and Professor of Electrical Engineering at IIT Delhi. He was the 12th Vice-chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (Jan 2016 – Feb 2022). He held the NXP (Philips) Chair Professor established at IIT Delhi by Philips Semiconductors, Netherlands. He received the 2013 Award for Excellence in Teaching (in large class category) from IIT Delhi.

He works in the area of Nanoelectronic Devices, Nanoscale Device modeling and simulation, Innovative Device Design and Power semiconductor devices. He has published extensively in the above areas with three books, four book chapters and more than 250 publications in refereed journals and conferences. Several patent applications have been filed based on his research.



Professor Agnes Nairn

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Vice President (Global Engagement), University of Bristol

Agnes is Chair of Marketing, University of Bristol and Distinguished International Visiting Faculty at NMIMS, Mumbai. Her research focuses on the ethics and regulation of marketing to children. She was Special Adviser to the House of Lords for the report UK Advertising in a Digital Age and is Co-PI of the new University of Bristol Gambling Harms Research Hub. She has worked on over 30 international multi-stakeholder projects with public, private and third sector organisations ranging from UNICEF, UN, and Brazilian Justice Ministry to Unilever, Coca-Cola and Public Health England.





Session 3: 1630–1740 | Understanding Mutual Recognition of Qualifications - scope and opportunities in context of new UGC regulations

Abstract: The session will look at the scope of the MRQs agreement, challenges and opportunities in the current regulatory framework and role of UK ENIC and Association of Indian Universities to facilitate degree arrangements between UK and Indian HEIs who wish to start joint or dual degree programmes.

Speakers

Dr. Cloud Bai-Yun, Chief Advisor to UK ENIC (former UK NARIC) Board Trustee of GRS Employee Ownership Trust (GRS EOT)

Henry Huggett, Head Global Partnerships, ECCTIC UK ENIC

Kuldeep Dagar, Deputy Secretary, Association of Indian Universities

Prof. Mohan Kumar, Dean of International Affairs and Global Initiatives, OP Jindal University

Dr. Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, AIU

Prof. Richard Wells, Pro Vice Chancellor International, Coventry University

Moderator: Dipankar Chakraborty, Regional Director, South Asia and Middle East, University of Birmingham

Dipankar Chakraborty

Country Director, University of Birmingham

Dipankar Chakraborty joined the University of Birmingham India Institute as Country Director in January 2019.

Dipankar is based in New Delhi and leads their in-country engagement with India. Dipankar looks to maintain relationships with our existing partner institutions to support academic engagement and research collaborations, whilst also identifying new opportunities with organisations in India.



Dr Cloud Bai-Yun

Chief Advisor to UK ENIC (former UK NARIC)
Board Trustee of GRS Employee Ownership Trust (GRS EOT)

Dr Cloud Bai-Yun, formerly Chief Executive of Ecctis and GRS (Holdings), the supplier of the UK ENIC service. Her career history includes designing and developing the National Reference Point for Vocational Qualifications since its inception; the National Europass Centre; the National Contact Point on Professional Qualifications, and the European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training Centre for England in more recent years.

Dr Bai-Yun was the driving force and creator of the UK's Crown copyright databank, *International Comparisons* and designed the UK NARIC Band Framework. Dr Bai-Yun has been a key player in the global market, having served as an elected Board member of the EU NARIC network; the elected Vice President for Standards of TAICEP, the Association of International Credential Evaluation Professionals; the Honorary President of the Sino-Britain Skills Alliance. Dr Bai-Yun has a high level of proficiency in a number of languages and holds professional qualifications in IT, Computing and Business Management.



India-UK higher education conference

Handbook



Henry Huggett

Lead Global Partnerships, ECCTIS UK-ENIC

Helping build robust partnerships in international higher education, facilitating education development, and supporting higher standards in quality and quality assurance.

Developing cooperative business relationships in the Middle East, North Africa, China and India, and supporting the improvement of international qualification recognition processes. Holder of a Bachelor degree in Modern Languages, and a Master's degree in English Language and Literature.



Kuldeep Dagar

Deputy Secretary, Association of Indian Universities

Mr Kuldeep Dagar is currently serving as Deputy Secretary with Association of Indian Universities and contributing in the Equivalence of Foreign Qualifications and International Divisions.

He has served as a member of various Committees and Professional Bodies including Govt of India Joint Taskforces for India-UK, India-Australia etc for Mutual Recognition of Qualification and organised various international conference, moderated panel discussion on contemporary educational matters etc.

Prior to joining AIU, he has worked with the JP Morgan Chase, Nokia Siemens network and Indian Navy. He is alumni of IIT Kharagpur and IIFT, Delhi.



Prof. Mohan Kumar

Dean of International Affairs and Global Initiatives, OP Jindal University

Ambassador Prof. (Dr.) Mohan Kumar has an outstanding career in the Indian Foreign Service lasting 36 years which culminated in his being India's Ambassador to France based in Paris. Under his watch, the Indo-French strategic partnership was strengthened and consolidated further in spheres such as defense, space, nuclear & solar energy, smart cities and investment. Earlier, Mohan Kumar was India's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain where he witnessed and dealt with a strategically complex region characterized by events such as the "Arab Spring".

Ambassador Dr. Mohan Kumar has enormous expertise in the area of international trade- he was India's lead negotiator first at the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) and then at the WTO (World Trade Organization) in crucial areas such as Intellectual Property Rights, Services, Dispute Settlement, Rules and Technical Barriers to Trade. He was a leading member of India's delegation at the WTO Ministerial Conferences held in Marrakesh (1994), Seattle (1999) and Doha (2001).

Ambassador Dr. Mohan Kumar holds a Master's In Business Administration (MBA) from the Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi and a Doctorate (Ph.D) from Sciences Po University, Paris.





Dr (Mrs) Pankaj Mittal

Secretary General, Association of Indian Universities

Dr (Mrs) Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) is the second women Secretary General of the Association in its 97 years of existence. She has been serving the higher education sector for more than 03 decades at senior positions at the University Grants Commission of India. She is the Chief Commissioner for Guides of Bharat Scouts and Guides. She is also the Member of General Assembly and Finance Committee of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), New Delhi.

Dr (Mrs) Pankaj Mittal is a Fulbright Scholar and has been a topper in MSc and PhD in Agricultural Statistics from IARI, New Delhi. Dr Mittal has also served as the first regular Vice Chancellor of Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya, Haryana, the first rural women university of North India for two terms. Dr Mittal is also the recipient of many Awards and Honours like Fulbright Nehru Scholarship grant for Educational Administrators, President of India Award in 2017 for Digital Initiatives in Higher education, Honorary Doctorate-D. Litt. (Honoris Causa) from Karnataka State Women's University, Karnataka, First Padam Shri Subhashini Devi Award 2018 for contributions in Societal Development and Community Engagement, Qimpro Gold Standard Award for leadership in Education for the year 2018 and Smt. Sushma Swaraj Stree Shakti Samman 2020.



Professor Richard Wells

Pro-Vice Chancellor, Coventry University

Richard is Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor, International and works closely with the rest of the International team to coordinate the strategy around the University's global activities. Prior to joining Coventry, he held several roles at the University of Aberdeen including Vice-Principal (International) and Dean for trans-national education. His academic background is in physical chemistry and specifically surface chemistry and heterogeneous catalysis. He is a graduate of Birmingham, Liverpool and Dundee Universities.

Richard has extensive experience in developing international links, having established major collaborations in the Gulf, Australia, China and South East Asia. He has advised on projects in Malaysia, China and Africa for other academic institutions and various NGOs and is also a long-term scientific advisor to the European Union.





19 September 2023

Session 1: 0930–1030 | Enhancing internationalisation in higher education and collaboration for quality enhancement

Abstract: Stuart Easter from BUILA will share the key findings of the British Council commissioned scoping study on strengthening capacity of international offices of Indian HEIs and opportunities for UK sector collaboration

Speakers

Aditya Malkani, Regional Director, Membership APAC – ACU

Catriona McCarthy, Director Global Engagement, Ulster University

Stuart Easter, Head of International Partnerships and Student Recruitment, Edinburgh Napier University

Dr. S K Varshney, Head of Scientific Divisions (HOD), Department Of Science & Technology

Moderator: Rajendra Tripathi, Head Education Programmes, India, British Council

Aditya Malkani

Regional Director, Membership APAC - ACU

Aditya Malkani is South & East Asia Representative at the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), and is responsible for informing the ACU's strategy in Asian Commonwealth countries as well as for engagement with the ACU's Asian membership across India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei Darrusalam, Hong Kong and The Maldives. His responsibilities include supporting universities within the region(s) collaborate strategically, as well as supporting inter-regional partnerships within the ACU network.

Aditya has been an education sector professional for over a decade, has previous experience in running a start-up and regularly speaks on issues relating to higher education and international collaboration on national and international platforms.



Catriona McCarthy

Director Global Engagement, Ulster University

Ulster University's Director for Global Engagement, with responsibility for overseeing the University's International Recruitment, Admissions & Compliance; International Student Experience; Global Partnerships; Mobility and English Language Teaching activity.

She serve as a member of both the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) International Advisory Group and of the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) Strategic Advisory Committee.



India-UK higher education conference

Handbook



Dr. S K Varshney

Department of Science & Technology

Dr S K Varshney is a scientific officer with Government of India working in the Ministry / Department of Science & Technology since 1990. He is presently working as scientist in the International Division of the Department responsible for facilitating bilateral scientific cooperation of India with select group of countries. He has worked as Counsellor (S&T) with Embassy of India in Moscow to facilitate bilateral scientific cooperation between India and Russia during April 2008 - June 2011. He has developed several scientific activities as well as inter-governmental documents to facilitate bilateral scientific cooperation of India with Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, Serbia & Montenegro, Slovak, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, Ukraine and Uzbekistan and multilateral scientific cooperation under SAARC, NAM and STEPAN programme. He has also developed documentation to promote scientific - industrial cooperation.



Stuart Easter

BUILA and Head of International Partnerships and Student Recruitment at Edinburgh Napier University

Stuart is the Head of International Partnerships and Student Recruitment at Edinburgh Napier University, where he leads a team of over 40 staff in 6 countries with responsibility for both UK and international student recruitment and partnership development. Stuart has worked in higher education since 2008 and has gained experience living and working in China as well as spending time at 3 Scottish universities in various internationalisation, recruitment and partnership development functions. Stuart has previously served on Chevening scholarship reading committees as well as being a member of the Scottish Universities International Group committee and the Universities Scotland International Committee. Stuart was elected to the BUILA Executive in 2021 and leads on liaison with the wider Scottish sector for BUILA, as well as training and TNE development.





Rajendra Tripathi

Head Higher Education Programmes India, British Council

Currently heads the Education programmes and partnerships for British Council India. A seasoned public policy professional with experience working with industry and nonprofit sector, he has expertise in driving large scale education collaborations and social impact in education at G2G level, skill development, community and digital inclusion initiatives across India, worked with network of more than 100 large, and small scale nonprofit organisations in India. An accomplished professional who has led the agenda of public advocacy in Education, research and innovation sector, Corporate Social Responsibility for British Council, Oracle, IBM, Intel in his past roles for India and the APAC region.





Session 2: 1045–1145 | Uncovering gender disparities in STEM and higher education

Abstract: The discussion will focus on key challenges, strategies and policy reforms that are critical to ensure better representation of women in leadership positions.

Speakers

Dr. Anupam Pachauri, Assistant Professor, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA)

Pawan Budhwar, Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor International, Aston University

Dr. Sanjay Mishra, Senior Advisor, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India

Moderator: Deepa Sundara Rajan, Senior Gender Specialist India, British Council

Dr. Anupam Pachauri

Assistant Professor, NIEPA

Ph.D. in Education from the University of Sussex, UK and was a Commonwealth Scholarship awardee. She has a wide range of professional experience of around 12 years, working in reputed government and non-government institutions in India in the field of teacher education and educational research. She has been an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Advanced Studies in Education (IASE), Department of Education, University of Delhi and a Research Associate at the Centre for International Education, University of Sussex. She has published articles in international journals and presented several research papers at international conferences. Her current research is focused on quality in higher education.



Pawan Budhwar

Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor International Aston University

Pawan Budhwar is 50th Anniversary Professor of International HRM at Aston Business School. He is also the Associate Pro-Vice Chancellor International, the Joint Director of Aston India Centre for Applied Research at Aston University and the Co-Editor-in-Chief of British Journal of Management. He received his PhD from Manchester Business School. He is the co-founder and first President of the Indian Academy of Management, an affiliate of AOM. Pawan has published over 120 articles in leading journals on topics related to people management, with a specific focus on India. He has also written and/or co-edited 21 books on HRM-related topics for different national and regional contexts. He is Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, the Higher Education Academy, the British Academy of Management and the Indian Academy of Management, and chartered member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD).





Dr. Sanjay Mishra

Senior Advisor, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India

Professor in Bio-mechanical engineering with two decades of teaching and research experience in India, the UK, the USA and Australia. Since 2012, engaged in strategic planning, designing, and implementation of policy and programs in at Department Of Biotechnology, Government of India national level in areas of education, science, technology, innovation, STEM, gender advancement and biotechnology, often in partnership with international organisations including UN, industry, Non-Government-Organisations and academia. Successfully, managed government programs of Rs 800 Cr (US\$100M) per year and has strong track record of bringing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR or ESG) support for national programs.

He is currently a senior advisor at and is responsible for Planning, designing, implementation and monitoring of Human Resource Development programs in Biotechnology and R & D programs in Agri-Biotechnology. He is also responsible for promotion of gender equity in Science and nurturing partnerships with industry, academia and non-government agencies.



Deepa Sundara Rajan

Senior Gender Specialist India, British Council

Deepa Sundara Rajan is senior consultant with the British Council's global gender & inclusion team, providing technical support on gender equality to British Council programmes in South Asia and East Asia. She also supports British Council global programmes on arts and the creative sector. Deepa has over two decades of experience in the development sector in India, with a focus on gender issues, education and child rights. She has worked with government programmes, international organisations and NGOs in India. Deepa holds a Masters in social work with specialisation in community development. She is based in Chennai, India.





Session 3: 1145–1245 | Harnessing technology for democratising international education through Online and Distance Learning (ODL)

Abstract: The session will explore the scope of international collaboration opportunities for Online and Distance Learning Universities, analysing strategies and best practices to promote high quality education through ODL.

Speakers

Prof. (Dr.) Ami Upadhyay, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (BAOU), Gujarat

Mike Winter OBE, Director International Affairs, University of London

Vinod Singh Yadav, Deputy Secretary, Distance Education Bureau, University Grants Commission, New Delhi

Moderator: Rittika Chanda Parruck, Director Education India, British Council

Prof. (Dr.) Ami Umakant Upadhyay

Vice Chancellor Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar State Open University, Gujarat

Prof. Ami Upadhyay currently serves as the esteemed Vice Chancellor of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar State Open University, Gujarat since 2018. She holds an impressive academic background, with degrees in Bachelors, Masters, Masters in Philosophy, and a Doctorate in English Literature, as well as a Diploma in Naturopathy and Yogic Science. Prof. Upadhyay is a skilled Indian classical dancer and choreographer. With over two decades of experience in the higher education sector, Prof. Upadhyay has contributed her expertise to various committees constituted by MHRD/ Ministry of Education, UGC, AIU, NAAC, NIOS, State Education Department, Gujarat Sahitya Akademi, and numerous state and central universities across India. During her tenure, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar State Open University has achieved numerous accolades, including an A++ accreditation by NAAC – the only state university in Gujarat and the only State Open University in India to do so. Under her leadership, the university has also been awarded Category 1 autonomy by the UGC. Prof. Upadhyay has played a pivotal role in the successful implementation of NEP 2020 at BAOU, ensuring its adherence to the highest standards.



Mike Winter OBE

University of London

Mike has over 40 years' experience in international education, including with the British Council from 1981 to 2008 in the UK, Turkey, Brazil, France and Japan. In 2009, he became Director International of the UCL Institute of Education with responsibility for global partnerships, and student and staff mobility. Working with the University of London (UoL) since 2016, Mike is currently its Director of International Affairs. In this role he leads on UoL's international policy engagement, projecting and developing the University's global footprint with its transnational provision across 190 countries; the international linkages of its Centre for Online and Distance Education; the School of Advanced Study's role as the UK's national centre for the support and promotion of research in the humanities; our unique institute in Paris; and the UoL Careers Group, the largest higher education careers and employability service in Europe.





Vinod Singh Yadav

Deputy Secretary, Distance Education Bureau, University Grants Commission, New Delhi

Vinod Singh Yadav holds Post Graduate degrees in Computer Science, Nautical Science, Tactical Operations and Management. He also holds a degree in Law. He served with Indian Navy for 10 years and joined University Grants Commission in 2013. He is presently working as Deputy Secretary, Distance Education Bureau, University Grants Commission. He has a strong foundation in policy formulation and regulatory framework with respect to Distance and Online Education. His areas of expertise and interest include Policy formulation, enhancing the quality, accessibility and effectiveness of distance education programmes.





Session 4: 1345–1500 | The role of university rankings in driving quality improvements and forging international education partnerships

Abstract: Amid India's improving performance in world university rankings, how well does this reflect the local context in India, and how does this help (or hinder) development of international education partnerships for Indian universities and achievement of SDGs.

Speakers

David Watkins, Managing Director, Data Science, Times Higher Education

Dr. Ganesan Kannabiran, Director National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)

Dr. Ram K Sharma, Vice Chancellor, UPES University

Prof. Somak Raychaudhury, Vice Chancellor, Ashoka University

Dr. Suzanna Tomassi, Higher Education Specialist, Department for Business & Trade, UK Government

Moderator: John Mcnamara, Global Head of Research, Insight Hubs, British Council

David Watkins

Managing Director, Data Science, Times Higher Education

David Watkins has over 25 years of experience in data science, during which he has used data to drive bottom-line benefits and create valuable business change for a multitude of organisations. He currently leads the data science team at Times Higher Education in producing rankings and detailed analyses, as well as research and development in areas such as academic partnership opportunities, and detailed brand and reputation analysis.

His speciality is artificial intelligence and machine learning, particularly neural networks.



Dr. Ganesan Kannabiran

Director - NAAC

Prof Kannabiran brings with him a rich experience of over 30 years in the education sector, having served as a senior professor of Information Systems at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Tiruchirappalli. Throughout his career, he has held various leadership positions, including the Dean of Research and Consultancy, and Director-in-Charge at NIT Trichy and NIT Puducherry. Prof Ganesan Kannabiran has earned recognition and acclaim for his contributions to the field. He has been the recipient of prestigious fellowships, including the Commonwealth Professional Fellowship, Fulbright Fellowship, and British Council Study Fellowship. Furthermore, he has undertaken various projects for prominent organizations such as the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, and UNESCO.

Prof Ganesan Kannabiran holds a Ph.D. in Information Systems and possesses three Master's degrees in Computer Science and Engineering, Business Administration, and Mathematics, demonstrating his multidisciplinary approach to education and research.





Dr. Ram K Sharma

Vice Chancellor UPES University

Dr. Ram K. Sharma is the Vice-Chancellor of UPES. He is possibly the youngest Vice Chancellors in India, especially among the NIRF Top 100 institutions.

Dr. Sharma is an accomplished higher education leader. He joined UPES as the Dean of Academics in February 2020 and became the Pro Vice-Chancellor in February 2022.

Dr. Sharma has been a Chevening Gurukul Fellow at the University of Oxford and also a Fulbright Nehru Scholar at the University of California, Berkeley where he worked on Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). A PhD in Experimental Physics, he has been driving academic transformation and innovation, internationalisation, use of technology to solve access, quality and equity related issues and STEAM and experiential education across the higher educational organisations.



Prof. Somak Raychaudhury

Vice Chancellor, Ashoka University

Prof Somak Raychaudhury is Vice-Chancellor, Ashoka University. He was previously the Director of the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune.

Professor Raychaudhury graduated from Presidency College, University of Calcutta, and went on to read Physics at Trinity College, University of Oxford, supported by an Inlaks Shivdasani scholarship. He did his Ph.D. in Astrophysics at the University of Cambridge, supported by the Isaac Newton Studentship, where he was awarded a J T Knight prize. He then moved to the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, (CfA) at Cambridge, USA, as a Smithsonian Fellow. He stayed on to work in the High Energy Astrophysics division of the CfA, working for a NASA project, as part of the team that built the Chandra X-Ray Observatory, now in orbit. At this time, he was always a Fellow of Lowell House, Harvard University





Dr. Suzanna Tomassi

Higher Education Specialist, Department of Business & Trade, UK Government

Suzanna Tomassi has joined DIT as the HE specialist working in the education team. Suzanna supports the delivery of the International Education Strategy ambitions to increase education exports, and to increase the numbers of international HE students studying in the UK. Liaising with UK and overseas governments to promote the UK HE sector in trade talks, she also identifies opportunities for UK HE providers in developing transnational education, including online and distance education. With over 20 years experience in HE, she spent the last 16 years in business development, working with academic partners in the UK and abroad, organising and managing collaborative provision, global experiences and online international learning. Suzanna previously worked in senior roles at four different UK universities, including the top UK TNE players. Studying abroad as a student triggered Suzanna's life-long passion about the HE sector. With two Masters Degrees, she is senior fellow of Advanced HE. She completed an MBA in HE Management while her PhD focused on HE and regional development.



John Mcnamara

Global Head of Research Insight Hubs, British Council

John McNamara is Global Head of Research, British Council's Education Insights Hub, and manages a broad portfolio of sector facing research. Key outputs include market intelligence briefs, thought leaderships reports, data tools, blogs and regular presentations to the UK education sector, HMG colleagues and international partners. Prior to joining the British Council in 2019, John ran his own international education consultancy, and before that worked as a senior economist with the Economist Intelligence Unit in London.





Valedictory session: 1500–1530 | Address by Dr. Subhas Sarkar, Hon'ble Minister of State for Education, Government of India and Alex Ellis, British High Commissioner to India

- Summary of the conference: Michael Houlgate, Deputy Director India, British Council and Rittika Chanda Parruck, Director Education India, British Council
- Overview of India-UK collaboration: Alex Ellis, British High Commissioner to India
- Valedictory address: Dr. Subhas Sarkar, Hon'ble Minister of State for Education, Government of India
- Vote of thanks: Alison Barrett MBE, Director India, British Council

Dr. Subhas Sarkar

Hon'ble Minister of State for Education, Government of India

Dr. Subhas Sarkar is the Minister of State for Education, Government of India. He represents Bankura Lok Sabha Constituency from West Bengal in Parliament. As a Parliamentarian Dr. Sarkar worked in the Parliamentary committees of the Ministry of Power, Health among others. Dr. Sarkar is a Medical Practitioner and specialised as a Gynaecologist with more than 30 years of experience. He obtained his degree of B.Sc. (Hons.) from Bankura Christian College, University of Burdwan and M.B.B.S. from B.S. Medical College, Calcutta University. He also completed Certificate Courses in Ultrasonography, Infertility and Laparoscopy. During his gynaecological practice, he has successfully overseen about 40,000 babies in the delivery. He is also a member of the Indian Nursing Council and All India Medical Sciences, Kalyani, West Bengal. He actively participates in various social work being as a member of organisations like Ramakrishna Mission, Sewa Bharti, Bharat Sewa Sangh etc.



Alex Ellis

British High Commissioner to India

Alex Ellis has been appointed as the British High Commissioner to the Republic of India. Previously, Alex worked as Deputy National Security Adviser for the Integrated Review on foreign and security policy. He was also Director General in the Department for Exiting the EU for three years. Alex has extensive experience in security issues, EU and strategy.

Alex has worked in the British Embassy in Madrid and started his civil service career as part of the team supporting the transition to multi party democracy in South Africa, following the release of Nelson Mandela.

Prior to this Alex was a teacher, including in India. He sings in a choir and loves music, theatre and most sports, especially cricket.



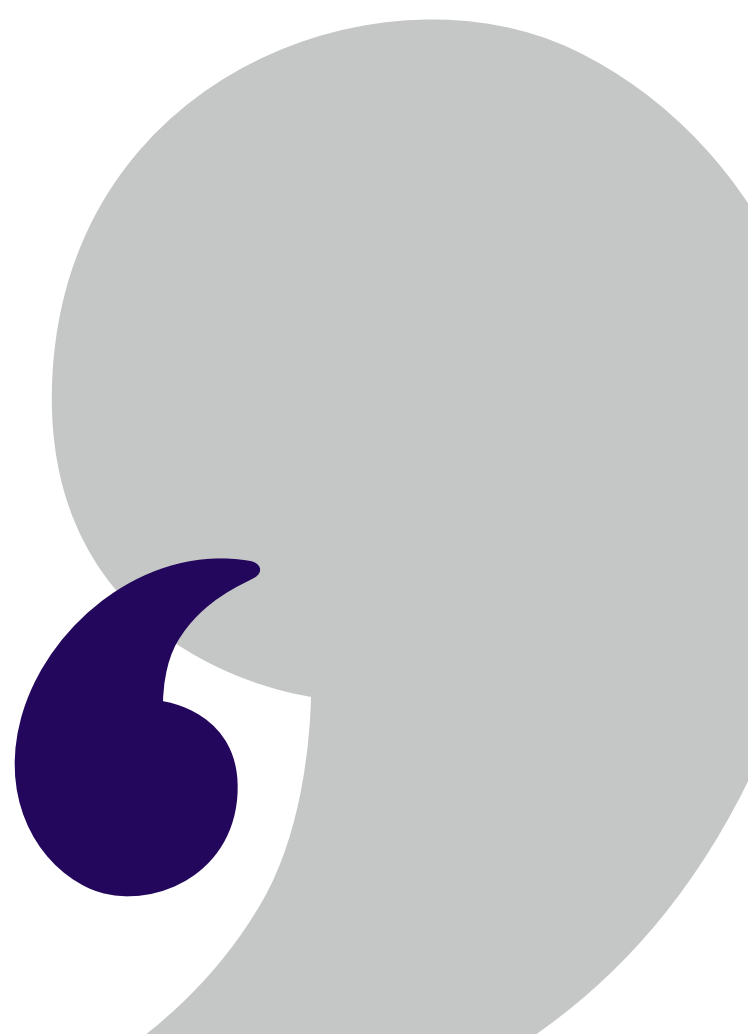


Conference wrap-up and summarising key takeaways by Michael Houlgate, Deputy Director India, British Council

Michael is the Deputy Director for India, overseeing the cultural engagement portfolio while also focusing on our work in north India. His last stint was with the British Council Pakistan, where he has worked since 2018, first as Director Sindh and Balochistan, and since October 2020 as Director Punjab. During this time he developed and delivered a diverse portfolio of projects in education, English and the arts.

Michael has been a part of the British Council in 2012, and has worked in Beijing, Cairo and Kabul. He worked to introduce the UK apprenticeship model in China for the first time; set up and managed a £20m fund to support UK-Egypt research partnerships, and led the British Council's work on education and civil society in Afghanistan.

He enjoys reading, hiking, learning languages, and playing guitar.





UK delegates

Name	
Prof. Sir Steve Smith	International Education Champion, UK Government
Maddalaine Ansell	Director Education, British Council
Krishna Joshi	Lead for India, South Asia, Central Asia, China and Hong Kong, International Education, Department of Biotechnology
Ali Arif	Senior Adviser, South Asia, International Education Department of Biotechnology
Mashalle Noor Asim	Department of Education
Dr Suzanna Tomassi	Higher Education Specialist Department of International Trade, UK
Debra Hinds	Pro Vice- Chancellor, International Arden University
Prof. Pawan Budhwar	Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor, International Aston University
Prof. Paul van Gardingen	Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Engagement Bangor University
Dipankar Chakraborty	Director - South Asia and Middle East University of Birmingham
Prof. Agnes Nairn	Pro Vice-Chancellor, International Bristol University
Dr. Sionade Robinson	Vice President, Engagement, Enterprise, Employability, City University
Prof. Richard Wells	Pro Vice-Chancellor, International Coventry University
Christine Bateman	Head of International Development, University of Liverpool
Gary Davies	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Recruitment and Business Development, London Metropolitan University
Prof. Lucy Mazdon	Pro Vice-Chancellor, International Students Oxford Brookes University
Christopher Cuddihy	Director, UK and International Government Relations, Pearson
Dr. Caroline Baylon	Pro Vice- Chancellor, International, University of Reading

India-UK higher education conference

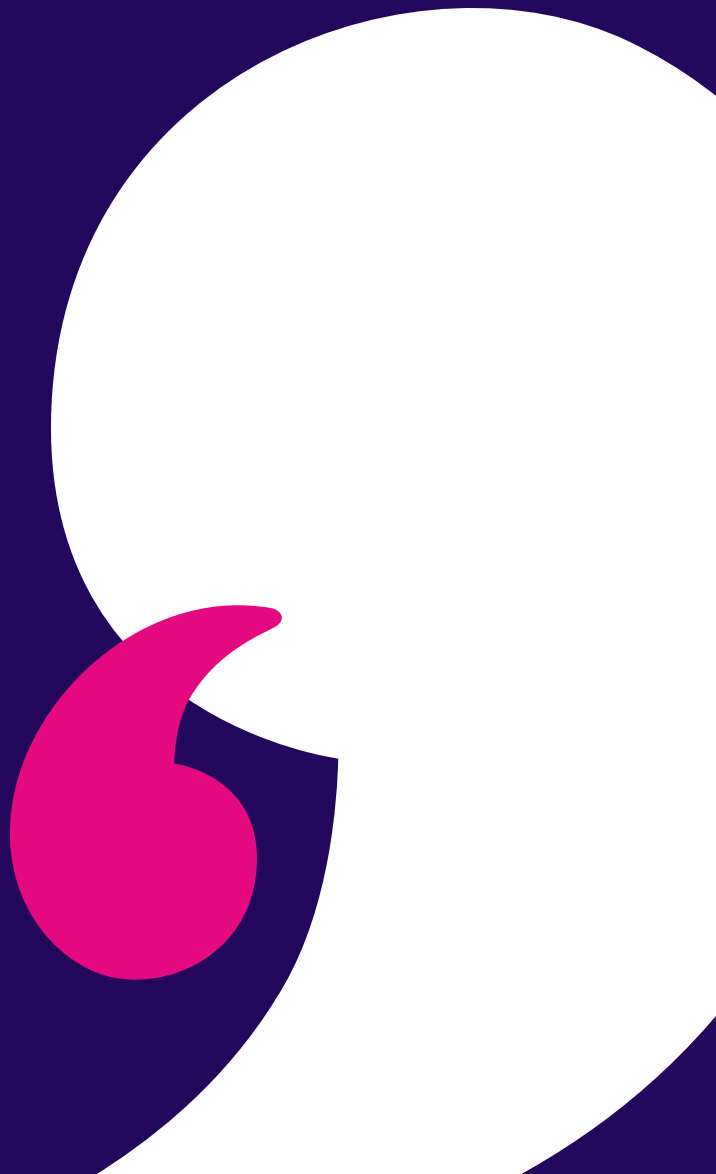
Handbook



Prof. Brad Mackay	Deputy Principal, University of St. Andrews
Prof. Ambrose Field	Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Strategy, York University
Mark Crossey	Assistant Director, Policy and Global Engagement Universities UK International
Helen Packer	Senior Reporter and Digital Strategist, PIE News
Prof. Peter Francis	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Birmingham City University
Prof. Stefan Przyborski	Executive Dean, Faculty of Sciences, Durham University
Prof. Paul Marshall	Pro Vice-Chancellor, Careers and Enterprise, University of East London
Prof. Richard Follett	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Global Engagement, Exeter University
Harish Lokhun	Market Development Manager, India, Global Wales
Dr. David Ashton	Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Partnerships and Recruitment, Leeds Beckett University
Mike Winter	Director, International Affairs, University of London
Prof. Ruth Valentine	Pro Vice-Chancellor, Education, University of Newcastle
Prof. Jon Reast	Pro Vice-Chancellor, International, Northumbria University
Dr. Duncan Cockburn	Vice Principal, Strategy and Planning, Robert Gordon University
Andrew Atherton	Vice President, International and Engagement, University of Southampton
Prof Martin Jones	Vice Chancellor, Staffordshire University
Catriona McCarthy	Director, Global Engagement, Ulster University
Joanne Midgley	Pro Vice-Chancellor and Registrar, University of West of England, Bristol
John Mynamara	British Council Global Head of Research Education Insight Hubs

The programme, speaker details and sessions are subject to changes.
Kindly scan the programme QR code for the latest information.





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