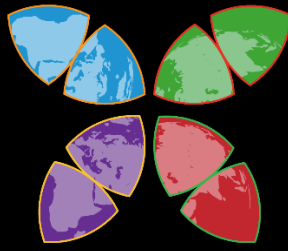


UKENIC 23

RECONFIGURATION



The Queen Elizabeth II Centre, Westminster, London, 4 and 5 December 2023

Programme schedule – Day 1

Monday 4 December

08:30 - 10:00 Registration, refreshments and networking

10:00 - 11:00 Plenary session

11:00 - 11:30 Refreshments and networking break

11:30 - 13:00 Breakout sessions

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch and networking

14:30 - 15:00 Breakout sessions

15:00 - 15:30 Breakout sessions

15:30 - 16:00 Refreshments and networking break

16:00 - 16:50 Breakout sessions

17:00 - 17:10 Closing remarks

17:10 - 18:30 Networking reception

Please see session information and descriptors below.

Please note all sessions are subject to change.

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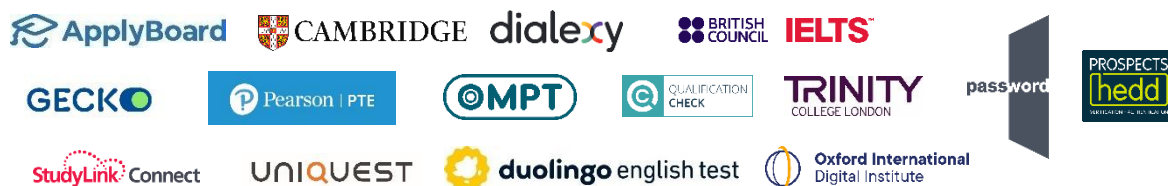
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Registration, refreshments and networking – 08:30 –10:00

Morning – Plenary 1 – 10:00 – 11:00

Reconfiguration in international education

Speakers: Prof. Tom Bewick, CEO of Ecctis; Ajaz Ahmed, CEO of AKQA; and Marios Molfetas, Executive Director, LanguageCert

Chair: Tim Buttress, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility, UK ENIC / Ecctis

Prof. Tom Bewick will welcome delegates and interview Ajaz Ahmed the CEO of AKQA.

Marios Molfetas, Executive Director, LanguageCert will welcome delegates to the conference.

Every conference delegate will be automatically registered for this plenary session.

Refreshments and networking break – 11:00 – 11:30

Morning - Breakout 1: parallel sessions – 11:30 – 13:00

Developing closer links between India and the UK higher education sectors (11:30 – 13:00)

Speakers:

Panel 1 Kuldeep Dagar, Deputy Secretary, Association of Indian Universities; Ellen Salter, Lead for India, Department for Education; Rittika Chanda Parruck, Director Education, British Council India; and Henry Huggett, Business Development Manager, UK ENIC / Ecctis

Panel 2 Vinay Pathak, Vice President AIU, Vice Chancellor VC of Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University; Sanam Arora, Chair, NISAU UK; Krishna Joshi, Lead for South Asia, Central Asia, China and Hong Kong, International Education, Department for Business and Trade; Paul Overton, Partnerships Development Manager, De Montfort University

Chair: Joy Joyti Nandi, Representative South Asia UK ENIC / Ecctis

A deep dive in India, the Indian education system and the relationship between India and the UK. A 90 min session which will be split into two panels:

1. An update on the UK-India MOU on mutual recognition and what this means for universities, colleges and professional bodies.
2. Understanding opportunities for UK-India partnerships in the context of India's National Education Policy.

A UK sector update on TNE: growth, quality and recognition (11:30 – 12:20)

Speakers: *Dr Suzanna Tomassi, Higher Education Specialist, Department of Business and Trade; Nishat Riaz, Global Head of Higher Education Systems and Internationalisation, British Council; Gemma Long, Head of Quality and TNE, Office for Students; and Anne Moore, Associate Director – International, Advance HE*

Chair: *Dr Fabrizio Trifiro, Head of Stakeholder Engagement and International Quality Reviews, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

This session provides an overview of current development regarding UK TNE, including sector level initiatives to supporting its growth, its regulation and quality assurance across the four UK nations, and Ecctis work to support international recognition of TNE.

The impact, culturally and socially, of having a diverse campus (11:30 – 12:20)

Speaker: *Bobby Mehta, PVC Global Engagement, University of Portsmouth; Prof. Helen Spencer-Oatey, Managing Director of GlobalPeople Consulting & Emeritus Professor of Intercultural Communication at the University of Warwick; and Nancy Cooke, Director of International Development, University of Salford*

Chair: *Leanne Hunnings, Training and Events Manager, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

This session considers whether universities and colleges should ensure that there is diversity within their student intake. In many instances providers are relying on one or two major markets which could be considered a high risk.

Experts from the sector will consider the impact, culturally and socially, of having a diverse campus.

What might a decolonised university experience look like – a student perspective (11:30 – 12:20)

Speaker: *Dr Richard Budd, Lecturer in Higher Education, Lancaster University; and Mary Oluwatobiloba Odetoyinbo, Graduate Teaching Associate, Lancaster University*

Chair: *Rachel Hollister-Short, Head of Membership Services Group, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

Decolonising higher education refers to recognising and undoing inherited, exclusionary practices within university cultures. It relates as much to research, organisational structures and processes as it does to teaching. This discussion session will help us to imagine what a decolonised university might look like from the position of students. It will not only look at what and how we teach, but also who is doing the teaching.

Are environmentally conscious institutions more attractive to international students? (11:30 – 12:20)

Speakers: Jack Ruane, University League Manager, People & Planet; and Mariann Baker, Head of International Recruitment, University of West London

Chair: Tim Buttress, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility, UK ENIC / Ecctis

Growing numbers of prospective international students are motivated to study with environmentally conscious institutions. This session considers the benefits of embracing environmental best practice and using this to promote institutions internationally.

Understanding Ghana (12:30 – 13:00)

Speaker: Zoë McKerr, Team Leader International Research, UK ENIC / Ecctis

Chair: Jamie Kirkaldy, Head of Teaching and Learning, OxfordAQA

Ghana is now the second largest sending country in Africa for international students in the UK and a key postgraduate market. With over half of the population under the age of 25 and growing demand for higher education, there is potential for further growth and significant opportunities to develop partnerships in the Ghanaian HE sector. This session focuses on what you need to know about higher education in Ghana, drawing on key insights from the UK ENIC study visit to Accra and our wider research on Ghana.

The HE readiness jigsaw (12:30 – 13:00)

Speakers: Axel Dessenin, International Education Analyst, UK ENIC / Ecctis; and Peter Skillen, Director - Governance, Risk, Assurance and Compliance, StudyGroup

Chair: Rebeca Cruz, K-12 Education and Development Manager, UK ENIC / Ecctis

An increasing number of applicants are following non-linear pathways into higher education – they may have experienced disruption to their studies, decided to change career, or embraced more flexible qualifications, such as micro-credentials. Drawing on real-life examples, this session explores recognition of non-traditional qualifications and partially completed studies. It will look at how different 'jigsaw pieces' of academic study, skills and experience can be brought together to demonstrate readiness for further study.

TRASE - a project supporting refugee mobility (12:30 – 13:00)

Speaker: Katherine Latta, Head of Professional Advisory Services, UK ENIC / Ecctis

Sharing the findings of the Council of Europe-sponsored project focused on analysing the services available for refugees and improvements that could be made to better support their integration into education and the workforce in the UK.

The Global Recognition Convention - a quick guide (12:30 – 13:00)

Speakers: *Libing Wang, Chief Section for Education, Innovation and Skills Development, UNESCO Bangkok*

Chair: *Chris Lyons, Head of External Engagement, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

The Global Convention establishes universal principles for fair, transparent and non-discriminatory recognition of higher education qualifications and qualifications giving access to higher education and offering avenues for further study and employment.

This session considers what this recently ratified convention means for qualifications delivered in the UK and overseas.

Discussion Hub 1 - Suitability and Readiness (12:30 – 13:00)

Round table discussions about suitability and readiness of international students.

There is no formal agenda and discussions will be peer-led, but are likely to include the following:

- Qualification comparability
- English language proficiency
- Maths proficiency
- Learning styles
- Cultural readiness

Lunch – 13:00 – 14:30

Afternoon – Breakout 2: parallel sessions – 14:30 – 15:00

Diversity of provision in Indian higher education (14:30 – 15:00)

Speakers: *Jodie Duffy, Head of Information Development, UK ENIC / Ecctis; and Prof. Vinay Pathak, Vice President AIU, Vice Chancellor VC of Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University*

Chair: *Rebeca Cruz, K-12 Education and Development Manager, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

The Indian higher education landscape is huge and complex with over 1,100 providers from 28 states and 8 union territories.

This session will consider the accreditation of Indian providers and the ranking systems used in India to help admissions teams understand the suitability and readiness of those holding higher education qualifications from this country.

Ecctis updates: Solutions to support the onboarding and development of your admissions team (14:30 – 15:00)

Speakers: *Jasmine Carroll, Premier Account Manager, UK ENIC / Ecctis; and Giulia Stracqualursi, Membership Services Manager, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

Chair: *Rachel Hollister-Short, Head of Membership Services Group, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

In this session, the Membership Services Team will provide an overview of our key solutions to support with the onboarding and ongoing development of your admissions and recruitment teams. The tools covered aim to assist with building confidence and efficient decision-making.

Recognition of UK trained professionals - an update (14:30 – 15:00)

Speakers: *Katherine Latta, Head of Professional Advisory Services, UK ENIC / Ecctis; and Dr David Clark FRSC, International Affairs Manager, Engineering Council*

A state of play with the recognition of UK trained professionals abroad, including current and future agreements and MoUs - and what this means for members.

Azerbaijan state scholarship programme and brief overview of the education system (14:30 – 15:00)

Speaker: *Aysel Karimli, Azerbaijan ENIC-NARIC*

Chair: *Chris Lyons, Head of External Engagement, UK ENIC/ Ecctis*

International students from Azerbaijan can receive a state scholarship for bachelor, master and PhD programmes. This session introduces the system and provides brief overview of the education system.

The human element: prioritising people in a digital world (14:30 – 15:00)

Speaker: *Afshan Baksh, Founder, Evolve Global*

Chair: *Fraser Cargill, Director – Global Recognition and Partnerships, LanguageCert*

This session will focus on the challenges of balancing rapid global digitisation in international education with our need to fundamentally connect and communicate on a human level as students and educators. The session explores the impact of the digital revolution during the pandemic on student readiness, and both student and educator wellbeing within our new world context. Critical questions considered include whether we are doing enough to maintain this essential engagement at a personal level, and what is the cost to us as organisations if we fail to do so.

Key takeaways:

- Reflect on the shift to online learning during the pandemic and its impact on students' readiness and well-being.
- Recognise the importance of personal connections in education and the potential risks of overlooking them.
- Discover strategies and tools to strike a balance between digital advancements and genuine human interaction in the classroom.

Discussion Hub 2 - Automation and Edtech (14:30 – 15:00)

How can technology support universities, colleges and professional bodies? AI, automation and Edtech are going to fundamentally change the way in which everyone operates. These roundtable discussions give you the opportunity to discuss the issues that matter to you.

There is no formal agenda and discussions will be peer-led.

Afternoon – Breakout 3: parallel sessions – 15:00 – 15:30

Close that Spreadsheet! Efficiently managing your agent network with technology (15:00 – 15:30)

Speaker: *Tom Wilmot, Director of Global Expansion, StudyLink Connect; and a representative from FlyWire*

Chair: *Alison Lowton, Research Manager, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

The relationships with your agents and their performance significantly drive your recruitment success. As the UK is facing more headwinds in key markets, we can no longer afford to manage agents on spreadsheets, chase documents by email and run commissions calculations manually.

This session will show you the steps of the agent management process that will make a difference to your recruitment outcomes with insight from agents, institutions and third parties.

What do agents want to see in an agent portal?

Is commission the biggest driver for an agent?

How do you assess agent performance and how do you construct a bonus scheme that really works?

Attendees will be given real solutions to implement at their own institutions with a focus on how technology can create more transparency and help recruitment and admissions staff to free up their time for the tasks that really matter.

What language skills should a university entrance test cover to enable student success? (15:00 – 15:30)

Speaker: *Justin Rodford, Senior Recognition Manager, Cambridge; and Dr. Tony Clark, Head of IELTS Research at Cambridge University Press & Assessment – English, Cambridge*

Chair: *Dr Fabrizio Trifiro, Head of Stakeholder Engagement and International Quality Reviews, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

The Covid 19 pandemic led to some universities widening the range of English language tests they use to evaluate students' language proficiency for course entry. For some this was a necessary compromise to maintain student numbers, but it is now becoming clear that student success is at risk if a language test does not rigorously assess the English skills required for academic study.

Now that online learning and testing are becoming part of the fabric of international education, and a degree of normality has returned, it is time to revisit the question: what should an English language test include if it is to help students succeed?

Looking at the English language skills required for academic success in 2023 and beyond, this session considers what really matters in an English language test. For example, developing students' communicative skills should begin before they arrive on campus - a well-designed test can help students hit the ground running. Some of the ways in which digital technologies are beginning to reshape modes of learning will also be considered, along with the potentially negative impact of insufficient language ability on students (e.g., on wellbeing or motivation) and universities (on retention, recruitment).

Language assessment must reflect student's experience beyond the test and must be embedded in the test development process. Knowing what the key skills are - and testing them before entry - is central to making international education work.

Cheating in High-Stakes Testing: New Technology, New Threats, New Solutions (15:00 – 15:30)

Speaker: *Fraser Cargill, Director – Global Recognition and Partnerships, LanguageCert; Alison Woolnough, Global University Relations Consultant, LanguageCert;*

Chair: *Katherine Huang, Head of Migration Services, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

Cheating in high-stakes testing is an enduring issue in education. Ongoing technological advancements have opened new avenues for fraudsters, making it essential to adapt and innovate. This session explores cheating in English language testing, focusing on identity fraud, specifically proxy test-taking. We showcase how human invigilation combined with technological innovations, notably Artificial Intelligence, are deployed to detect and deter malpractice. Additionally, we discuss practical ways educational institutions can collaborate with test providers to curb fraud. Attendees will leave with insights into the evolving landscape of cheating in high-stakes testing and actionable strategies to ensure the integrity of assessments.

The upside-down world of degree fraud (15:00 – 15:30)

Speaker: *Chris Rea, Head of Commercial Services, Prospect Hedd*

Chair: *Zoë McKerr, Team Leader International Research, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

For every real university there is a fake version busy issuing transcripts and certificates to unwitting (and sometimes witting) students. Other fake universities don't even attempt to mimic a real-world institution but create universities in places that don't have them. Unaccredited 'learning providers', meanwhile, slap university and government logos all over their websites to bolster their pseudo-credentials. Indeed, the infrastructure of the shadow market has even extended to fake companies providing fake work experience references. It truly is an upside-down world. The session will look at some of the more egregious examples from Hedd's investigation case book and share best practice on how employers, universities and students can protect themselves from the fraudsters.

Beyond Borders: The AI (R)Evolution in Translation and Qualification Assessment (15:00 – 15:30)

Speakers: *Mónica Camino Moreno, CEO, Dialexy Ltd; and Dr Blaise Potard, CTO, Dialexy Ltd*

Discover the transformative intersection of technology and translation and how AI-assisted tools can help your organisation fast track international applications, streamline traditionally laborious admission processes, and be the first in the sector to witness the future of qualification translation and assessment unfold before your eyes.

Delve into the decade-long influence of AI-driven tech development on translation with Dialexy, UK ENIC / ECCTIS exclusive partner for certified translations since 2019, to learn how AI is transforming the industry and its impact on your admission processes.

Don't miss the chance to experience a live demo showcasing how you could quickly, reliably, and consistently understand international applicants' documents with the help of Dialexy's forthcoming set of tools for F/HE admission teams.

Afternoon Tea break and networking – 15:30 – 16:00

Afternoon – Breakout 4: parallel sessions – 16:00 – 16:50

What is driving education fraud? (16:00 – 16:50)

Speakers: *Ed Hall, CEO, Qualification Check; Chris Rea, Head of Commercial Services, Prospects Hedd; and Emma Scott Ward, Global Admissions Team Leader, University of Portsmouth*

Chair: *Katherine Huang, Head of Migration Services, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

Education fraud is an increasing area of interest across the sector. This panel session will consider what is driving education fraud, and focus on the following areas:

- Who is committing education fraud?
- Why are they committing education fraud?
- What support is there available to providers?
- Highlighting best practice in combating education fraud

The UK immigration system - an expert panel (16:00 – 16:50)

Speakers: *Tim Tiverton, Solicitor, IEM Consultancy; Anne-Marie Graham, CEO, UKCISA; Peter Skillen, Director - Governance, Risk, Assurance and Compliance, Study Group; and Laura Rose-Troup, Head of International, Newcastle College*

Chair: *Sara Smith, Chair of the International Compliance Group, University of Portsmouth*

Pregnancy, working rights, dependents, refugee applications once accepted as a student - all these have an impact on a sponsor but may not be illegal. How should sponsors respond to such issues?

This session will consider such thorny issues and provide expert insight and advice.

Promoting university or college brand internationally (16:00 – 16:50)

Speakers: *Dr Diana Beech, CEO, London Higher; and Anna Zvagule, Head of Communications, London Higher; and Jane Britton, PVC Communications and External Affairs, University of Worcester*

Chair: *Ajaz Ahmed, CEO of AKQA*

Promoting the UK's education brand and individual university / college brands is a significant challenge in the crowded international education marketplace.

This session will highlight ways in which providers can get themselves noticed internationally.

How to overcome the challenge of integrating international students onto post-graduate courses (16:00 – 16:50)

Speaker: *Nancy Cooke, Associate Director: International Development, University of Salford; Jodie Duffy, Head of Information Development, UK ENIC / Ecctis; and Adityavarman Mehta, International Student Ambassador, UKCISA*

Chair: *Chris Lyons, Head of External Engagement, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

A focus on Postgraduate admissions and the challenge of integrating these students.

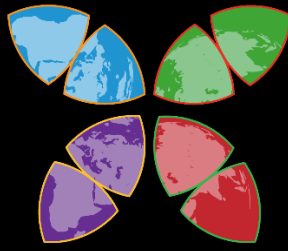
Issues associated with cultural and education background will be considered in this lively discussion including insight from the University of Salford, an international student ambassador from UKCISA and an expert in international education from Ecctis.

Closing remarks 17:00

Networking reception 17:15 – 18:30

UKENIC 23

RECONFIGURATION



The Queen Elizabeth II Centre, Westminster, London, 4 and 5 December 2023

Programme schedule – Day 2

Tuesday 5 December

08:30 - 10:00 Registration, refreshments and networking

10:00 - 11:00 Plenary session

11:00 - 11:30 Refreshments and networking break

11:30 - 13:00 Breakout sessions

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch and networking

14:30 - 15:00 Breakout sessions

15:00 - 15:30 Breakout sessions

15:30 - 16:00 Refreshments and networking break

16:00 - 16:50 Breakout sessions

17:00 - 17:10 Closing remarks

Please see session information and descriptors below.

Please note all sessions are subject to change.

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Registration, refreshments and networking – 08:30 – 10:00

Morning – Plenary 1 – 10:00 – 11:00

Question-Time-style panel (10:00 – 11:00)

Speakers: Nishat Riaz, Global Head of Higher Education Systems and Internationalisation, British Council; Prof. Ellen Hazelkorn, Independent Education Consultant; Libing Wang, Chief Section for Education, Innovation and Skills Development, UNESCO Bangkok; and Dr Diana Beech, CEO London Higher

Chair: Dr Fabrizio Trifiro, Head of Stakeholder Engagement and International Quality Reviews, UK ENIC / Ecctis

A Question-Time-style panel considering some of the key issues affecting UK ENIC members in the UK and overseas.

Every conference delegate will be automatically registered for this plenary session.

Refreshments and networking break – 11:00 – 11:30

Morning - Breakout 1: parallel sessions – 11:30 – 13:00

The international education landscape in 2030 (11:30 – 13:00)

Speakers:

Libing Wang, Chief Section for Education, Innovation and Skills Development, UNESCO Bangkok; and Prof. Ellen Hazelkorn, Independent Education Consultant

Panel: Janet Ilieva, Founder, Education Insight; Jeffrey Williams, CEO, Enroly; Prof. Judith Lamie, Pro-Vice-Chancellor International Engagement, Swansea University; and Jonathan Ledger, Skills and Professional Bodies Specialist, Department for Business and Trade

Chair: Dr Fabrizio Trifiro, Head of Stakeholder Engagement and International Quality Reviews, UK ENIC / Ecctis

A 90-minute session split into two parts each enables delegates to consider the possible future directions of international education, against the background of the UNESCO Education 2030 agenda, existing international economic, political and environmental crisis, changing patterns of demand for education and training, and developments in information technology and skills needs.

A panel of international education experts respond to the ideas put forward by Libing Wang and Prof. Hazelkorn.

Can micro-credentials support access to work and admissions? A case study into understanding 21st century skills (11:30 – 12:20)

Speakers: *Prof. Annabel Kiernan, Pro Vice Chancellor Academic, Staffordshire University*

Chair: *Tom Bewick, CEO, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

Exploring how research into micro-credentials can support worker reintegration in regions with structural unemployment and likewise how the same approach can help to broaden admissions. Interpreting the lived experiences of applicants can help to match existing skillsets with workplace skills gaps and likewise help to identify and address shortfalls that may prevent students for admission into university programmes.

Considering the wider issues with recognition of online learning (11:30 – 12:20)

Speaker: *Mike Winter, Director International Affairs, University of London; Prof Devendra Kodwani, Executive Dean, Open University, Kuldeep Dagar, Deputy Secretary, Association of Indian Universities; and Jeni Myftari, Qualifications Official Ratification, Oman Embassy*

Chair: *Chris Lyons, Head of External Engagement, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

Online learning has witnessed significant growth in recent years, particularly accelerated by the global COVID-19 pandemic. While it offers unprecedented flexibility and accessibility, the recognition of online learning, both by educational institutions and employers, remains a multifaceted and evolving challenge. This conference session seeks to delve into the wider issues associated with the recognition of online learning and address critical questions related to its quality, accreditation, and impact on career prospects.

The student voice: understanding the choices that students make (11:30 – 12:20)

Speaker: *Sanam Arora, Chairperson, NISAU-UK; and Adityavarman Mehta, Loan Thu Nguyen, and Vartika Khandelwal, UKCISA International Student Ambassadors*

Chair: *Ruth Arnold, Executive Director External Affairs, Study Group*

A specially invited panel of UKCISA's international student ambassadors will discuss what information and support they found particularly useful before and during their application and in their time within higher education.

Can automation help manage increasing numbers of applications (11:30 – 12:20)

Speakers: *Jude King, Associate Director, Admissions, Enquiries and Fulfilment, University of Liverpool; and Russell Lawrie, Commercial Director, Endpoint Automations Services*

Chair: *Jasmine Carroll, Premier Account Manager, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

Admissions teams are facing significant challenges in managing the exponential growth and increasing complexity in student applications. There is a huge opportunity to embrace AI and technological solutions to significantly improve efficiencies and effectiveness.

The Liverpool University team will share their journey and how they have and are continuing to transform the way they have managed and delivered improvements in their solutions in partnership with Endpoint Automations Services.

Attendees will gain real insitu insights into how embracing the right processes and latest technologies are key opportunities in successfully managing the growing influx of applications with distinct benefits to admissions teams, organisations and learners.

Update on the education system of Ukraine (12:30 – 13:00)

Speaker: *Valentyna Krasnoshchok, International Education Analyst, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

Chair: *Charles Horwood, Client Relations Manager, ETS*

This session will provide a brief overview of the Ukrainian education system.

We will also consider how current events are affecting the system with a particular focus upon which aspects of the system are still operating.

Delegates will also receive information about the accreditation status of Ukrainian universities and where further information can be found.

Counter fraud roundtable (12:30 – 13:00)

Speakers: *Antony Swift, Registration and Standards International Advisor, Institution of Engineering and Technology; Julie Hepburn, Head of Quality and Recognition, ACCA; and Julia Varga, Senior Admissions Officer (Qualifications), University College London (UCL)*

Chair: *Chris Lyons, Head of External Engagement, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

Education fraud is affecting all of UK ENIC's members. Members are reporting increases in fraud across the board. UK ENIC is being told of concerns in the following areas:

- Qualification fraud
- Unaccredited institutions/programmes
- Falsely claimed professional rights

This session will consider the issues being faced by different bodies with the UK ENIC membership and seek ways to be able to share insight and knowledge.

Why is maths proficiency important in admissions? (12:30 – 13:00)

Speaker: Adam Smallwood, Head of Partnerships, OMPT; and Jodie Duffy, Head of Information Development, UK ENIC / Ecctis

Chair: Rebeca Cruz, K-12 Education and Development Manager, UK ENIC / Ecctis

What's the difference between the various AP maths courses in the US? Which is the most significant maths grade on a German Abitur transcript? How can providers determine whether applicants have the maths competency they need for their chosen course?

This interactive session will tackle these questions and look at the different ways in which maths proficiency can be evaluated.

An update from UCAS on Personal Statement and what this will mean for international students (12:30 – 13:00)

Speakers: Kim Eccleston, Head of Strategy and Reform, UCAS

Chair: Bobby Mehta, PVC Global Engagement, University of Portsmouth

UCAS will provide an update on the recently announced changes to Personal Statements. From 2025 the admission process for undergraduate courses in the UK will be changing.

This session will provide an update on the latest developments.

Discussion Hub 3 – Trade and Mobility (12:30 – 13:00)

Trade, mobility and immigration have been linked since antiquity. These roundabout discussions operate with no agenda, just some ideas to stimulate conversation.

Lunch – 13:00 – 14:30

Afternoon – Breakout 2: parallel sessions – 14:30 – 15:00

Membership Surgery - meet the UK ENIC account management team (14:30 – 15:00)

Speakers: Luke Gallagher, Membership Sales Manager, UK ENIC / Ecctis; Xènia Corominas, Membership Account Executive, UKENIC / Ecctis; and Olly Pritchard, Business Development Executive, UK ENIC / Ecctis

This session will operate as a drop-in surgery style session.

You will be able to meet with the account manager team, feedback on your experiences, hear first-hand about new services, and share some of the challenges you are currently facing within your day-to-day roles.

Supporting refugees and displaced learners to access education (14:30 – 15:00)

Speakers: *Valentyna Krasnoshchok, International Education Analyst, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

Chair: *Katherine Huang, Head of Migration Services, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

This session focuses on how Ecctis and UK ENIC are able to support refugees to gain access to education, drawing on our work developing a framework of outcomes, which compares incomplete qualifications and periods of study at secondary and HE level to the UK system to enable integration of students to continue their studies. Case studies from Ukraine and Afghanistan highlight the benefits of the services provided to individuals and providers.

Student performance and predictors of success (14:30 – 15:00)

Speakers: *Jodie Duffy, Head of Information Development, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

Chair: *Chris Lyons, Head of External Engagement, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

What do grades tell us about how well a student has performed? What are the most useful indicators of HE readiness? How can research and data help us improve student outcomes? This session will explore how understanding students' previous performance can help us determine readiness and suitability for HE study.

Understanding the options available to international students (14:30 – 15:00)

Speaker: *Ann MacDonald, Interim Associate Registrar and Director, Student Recruitment and Undergraduate Admissions, Dalhousie University; Peter Skillen, Director - Governance, Risk, Assurance and Compliance, StudyGroup; and representatives from Australian Universities*

Chair: *Philip Cernik, Head of Business Development. UK ENIC / Ecctis*

This session considers the UK, Canada and Australia from the perspective of an international student.

- What are the application processes?
- What are the differences in the immigrations processes?
- What support is provided for international students?

How can AI provide insight in the suitability and readiness of potential students? (14:30 – 15:00)

Speaker: *Rose Clesham, Director of Academic Standards & Measurement, Pearson; and Chris Gibson, UK Sales Manager, Gecko*

Chair: *Blaise Potard, CTO, Dialaxy*

AI is already influencing many parts of our daily lives and there has been much doom and gloom about the dangers of embracing this technology.

However, AI can design accurate, fair and reliable tests which can highlight the suitability and readiness of student to enter education programmes.

This session will consider the benefits of using AI as part of the assessment process for understanding the capability and proficiency of individuals and whether they are suitable for entry on to courses.

Discussion Hub 4 - Partnerships (14:30 – 15:00)

Partnerships are the bedrock upon which many international strategies are built, whether it be based on research, shared programmes, online learning, distance learning or in-country campuses. These roundabout discussions operate with no agenda, just some ideas to stimulate conversation.

Afternoon – Breakout 3: parallel sessions – 15:00 – 15:30

AI is here ...it doesn't matter if you are for or against it. Artificial OR Intelligent? Beginning AI in Student Recruitment and admissions (15:00 – 15:30)

Speaker: *Ray Nicosia, Principal, Test Security, ETS; Sandy Bhangal, Executive Director of Global Strategy and Growth, ETS; Desmond Kohn, Director, Global Business Development, Sinorbis*

Chair: *Jasmine Carroll, Premier Account Manager, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

The dawn of 2023 initiated the fourth human revolution, highlighted by mentions of ChatGPT or its equivalents at every conference. What implications does this have for international student recruitment and admissions? How can higher education institutions optimise the use of this technology throughout the student journey? Many debates have argued the pros and cons of AI in recruitment and testing. It is not a question of whether you are for or against the use of AI in testing, or recruitment, it is happening. The speakers will debate the future of recruitment and testing utilizing artificial intelligence. They will debate and discuss questions such as: How comfortable are you with AI? What is your tolerance level? When is it “ok” and when is it not ok to use AI?

Sinorbis will highlight the transformative role of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) in international student recruitment. The presentation will demystify AI concepts, emphasise its potential in hyper-personalised educational marketing, and underscore the need for caution, governance, and ethical application. ETS will share insights in test security and program management in test centre, remote, and hybrid delivery as well as debate the future of testing utilising artificial intelligence. Cheating is nothing new, but the tools that can be used to support it are getting more sophisticated, smarter, and better funded. What are the issues these new technologies raise? How are these tools brought to market? And how can testing programs such as TOEFL and proctors better address these new realities?

Reconfiguring the relationship between education and assessment (15:00 – 15:30)

Speaker: *Jamie Kirkaldy Head of Teaching and Learning, OxfordAQA and Dr Nathaniel Owen Senior Research and Analysis Manager OxfordAQA*

Chair: *Zoë McKerr, Team Leader International Research, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

Assessment is more than a test of recall. In this session, Jamie Kirkaldy and Dr. Nathaniel Owen discuss the importance of creating assessments that test higher-order thinking, which

enable teachers, during pre-university teaching, to help nurture the skills essential for successful university study and beyond in their students.

The future of student conversion: driving your enrolments using intelligent tech (15:00 – 15:30)

Speaker: *Adam Rennison, Commercial Director, UniQuest; Dave Parrott, Director of Admissions Services, UniQuest*

Chair: *Alison Lowton, Research Manager, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

The HE sector is rethinking student admissions and conversion strategies, prompted by the recent surge of new intelligent tech and AI-driven products and services. But identifying the services that will deliver bespoke solutions for your institution's individual needs and fit seamlessly into your existing, complex frameworks can be challenging.

In this session, we'll share insights into how we're applying intelligent technology, flexible processes and expert teams to help our university partners address their admissions and conversion challenges successfully, confidently and at pace. We'll highlight examples of how we have enabled international recruitment and admissions teams to rapidly achieve sustainable enrolment growth without overburdening their resources. We'll also talk about our recent advances in enhanced conversion propensity modelling and Smart Select – our intelligent admissions platform - which has sparked interest across the sector and is delivering instant impact for our partners.

Managing application fraud within university admissions (15:00 – 15:30)

Speaker: *Phil Dupont, Senior Solutions Manager, Qualification Check*

Chair: *Lea Hunnings, Training and Events Manager, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

Phil Dupont, Senior Solutions Manager, will present on the need for consistent policy and best practice in university admissions processes. They will consider how a defined and standardised policy to university admissions can:

- Save admissions teams time and reduce workload
- Improve the applicant experience
- Reduce attempted fraud through clear communication in advance
- Deliver equality within admissions processes
- Ensure UKVI compliance.

ChatGPT for HigherEd: How to start leveraging AI today (and what to look out for) (15:00 – 15:30)

Speaker: *Chris Gibson, UK Sales Manager, Gecko; Jonny Richardson, Head of Implementation, Gecko*

Chair: *Rachel Hollister-Short, Head of Membership Services Group, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

During our live interactive session you will:

- Get an intro to ChatGPT (in language that your grandma would understand) and a look at why it's so buzzworthy right now.
- Learn what ChatGPT is good at and what it can't do (as well as what it thinks it can do, but really can't).
- Find out how this technology could affect you and your institution — both the good and the bad.
- Get some actionable tips for using ChatGPT
- Build your own chatbot, during the session, in less than 60 seconds

Afternoon Tea break and networking – 15:30 – 16:00

Afternoon – Breakout 4: parallel sessions – 16:00 – 16:50

English Language panel (16:00 – 16:50)

Speakers: *Catherine Jones, Academic Associate, LanguageCert; Sandy Bhangal, Executive Director of Global Strategy and Growth, ETS; Dr. Nathaniel Owen, Senior Assessment Research and Analysis Manager OxfordAQA; and Alison Lowton, Research Manager, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

Chair: *Chris Lyons, Head of External Engagement, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

Being "proficient" in English is common requisite asked of individuals. Whether language users have to prove their ability to enter the UK, to work in specific UK professions or to access further or higher education delivered in the medium of English, the level of English is often central to requirements.

UK ENIC presents a panel of experts to discuss their views on what "English language proficiency" means and consider how the term might be understood both conceptually and in day-to-day practice. Discussion will consider how language tests measure ability differently; whether language scores are appropriate indicators of ability; and if so, how easy or difficult it is to identify relevant threshold scores for education or employment. In essence, how far does a language proficiency score help when attempting to assess the potential to succeed in study or work?

A focus on Asian recruitment markets (16:00 – 16:50)

Speakers: *Jasmine Carroll, Premier Account Manager, UK ENIC / Ecctis; and Giulia Stracqualursi, Membership Services Manager, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

Chair: *Rachel Hollister-Short, Head of Membership Services Group, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

This session will focus on two emerging markets.

Partnership opportunities with China Colleges (16:00 – 16:50)

Speakers: *Yi Yang, President of Beijing College of Finance and Commerce (BCFC); Yan Huang, President of Guanzhou Light Industry Vocational School (GLIVS); Huajie Li, Ecctis Representative Office, Beijing, China; and Hongling Deng, Business Coordinator – China and Asia, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

Chair: *Steve Miller, Head of Communications, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

After long-term practice and exploration, China has formed a unique development paradigm of modern vocational education, and has built the most complete vocational education system in the world. China is willing to learn from advanced international experience in the development of vocational education and is willing to share its experience and achievements with other countries. Therefore, in this forum, colleges will introduce the achievements of China's vocational education development, share China's vocational education innovation measures with the international community, and invite vocational education cooperation.

Contemporary threats to the academic integrity (16:00 – 16:50)

Speaker: *Dr. Shiva Sivasubramaniam, Head of Ethical Advisory Group, European Network for Academic Integrity; Matthew Glanville, Head of Assessment Principles and Practice, International Baccalaureate; Gráinne Mooney, Senior Communications Manager, QQI, GAIN and member of the Irish National Academic Integrity Network Steering Committee*

Chair: *Dr Fabrizio Trifiro, Head of Stakeholder Engagement and International Quality Reviews, UK ENIC / Ecctis*

This session looks at the range of threats posed to the continued confidence that the education community can place on the standards of qualification, including the growth of contract cheating / essay mills services, the implications of AI for the integrity of assessment, and fraudulent credentialing practice.

Closing remarks – 17:00

End of conference – 17:15

**Please note this programme is subject to change.*