



UNIVERSITY OF
WESTMINSTER



Uzbekistan – United Kingdom Education Forum May 15-16, 2025

organised in partnership with the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovations of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the British Council, Uzbek Embassy in London, the University of Westminster, London South Bank University, Westminster International University in Tashkent.

Aim: The Forum will address core priorities for Higher Education in Uzbekistan, the UK and globally and highlight key ways in which these priorities are delivered, including through transnational collaborations. The impact of Higher Education policy, practice and partnerships will be a focus throughout.

Venue:

Day One: London South Bank University

Day Two: University of Westminster

Day 1

Venue: London South Bank University Hub, 100-115 Borough Road, London, SE1 6LN.

Directions to LSBU Southwark Campus: [Maps and travel](#) | [London South Bank University](#)

09:30-10:10	Registration / Networking <i>LSBU Hub, Exhibition Space</i>
10:10-11:00	Welcome and Opening Remarks Professor Deborah Johnston, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Framework), London South Bank University (TBC) HE Ravshan Usmanov, Uzbekistan Ambassador to the UK Otabek Makhkamov, Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovations of the Republic of Uzbekistan Denise Waddingham, Director, British Council Uzbekistan

<p>Session 1</p> <p>11:00-12:30</p>	<p>The role of university-industry partnerships for better employability and sustainable change</p> <p>Session Description Working with local and global employers for social change and sustainable development: the role of university-industry links in increasing student employability and meeting UN Sustainable Development Goals Many universities are now beginning to embed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) into their corporate strategies and recognise the importance of addressing social challenges as part of their commitments to shaping and bettering our future world. Building and sustaining strong university-industry partnerships is key to identifying and contributing towards the resolution of local challenges, as well as scaling up local innovations to address more complex global challenges.</p> <p>In this exciting session, we will look at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How universities in the UK and Uzbekistan have set up meaningful university-industry partnerships, and how these have contributed to sustainable development in both regions. • How strategic industry-partnerships alliances contribute to increased student employability, as well as producing globally competent graduates. • How participation in opportunities initiated by university-industry partnerships have changed students' lives. <p>Session Format Expert panel, including current students / alumni. Concise presentations from each panel member will frame the initial discussion, and a Q&A will follow.</p> <p>Session Organisers Aissata Edmondson, Head of Global Partnerships (LSBU Global) Sophie Da Silva, Partnerships Manager (LSBU Global)</p> <p>Session Chairs/Moderators Tom Bodley Scott Strategic Alliances Director (University College London)</p> <p>Session Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zafar Khashimov, Co-founder (TEAM University); Founder (Korzinka Supermarkets) • Hikmat Abdurahmatov, Co-Founder and CEO (TEAM University); Co-Founder (HM Partners, GroundZero Coworking Spaces, CLG Leasing Auto); Country Director (Global Entrepreneurship Network)
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Bodley Scott Strategic Alliances Director (University College London) (TBC) • Gulnara Otten, Head of Post-Award and Project Management (London South Bank University) • <u>Kristina Kerwin</u>, Graduate Teaching Assistant and Lead of the LSBU Energy Advice Centre (TBC) • Cigdem Turkyilmaz, rector, Samarkand State Architecture and Construction University named after Mirzo Ulugbek (TBC) • Maksud Isakov, rector University of Geological Sciences (TBC) <p><i>LSBU Hub, Southwark Lecture Theatre</i></p>
12:30-13:20	<p>Networking Lunch</p> <p><i>LSBU Hub, Exhibition Space</i></p>
<p>Session 2</p> <p>13:30-15:00</p>	<p>Integrating Apprenticeships (Dual Education)- and Entrepreneurship into Higher Education: Navigating Policy and Sharing Best Practice from the UK and Uzbekistan</p> <p>Session Description</p> <p>This dynamic session will explore how higher education institutions in the UK and Uzbekistan are embedding apprenticeships and entrepreneurship into their learning ecosystems, aligning with national policy drivers and student aspirations for meaningful careers.</p> <p>Drawing on the UK's Apprenticeship Levy model and quality assurance frameworks, speakers will unpack the demand for work-based learning and how apprenticeships are evolving to meet the needs of modern learners and employers. The session will also spotlight innovative approaches to engaging students in entrepreneurship—from business incubation and mentorship programmes to executive education offers.</p> <p>Using the case of TEAM University's growing entrepreneurship ecosystem and LSBU's leadership in degree apprenticeships, we will explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How policy environments influence provision, funding, and employer engagement • Ways to design apprenticeship and entrepreneurial opportunities aligned to students' interests, career goals, and academic outcomes • Best practice in ecosystem building: partnerships, incubation, and mentorship models that work • Lessons from UK and Uzbekistan collaborations to create scalable and sustainable models <p>Session Format</p>

Expert panel (Apprenticeships / Entrepreneurship). The format will be designed to maximise engagement and peer learning between UK and Uzbek institutions.

Session Organisers

Aissata Edmondson, Head of Global Partnerships (LSBU Global)

Sophie Da Silva, Partnerships Manager (LSBU Global)

Session Chair/Moderator

Darren James-Mitchell, Associate Academic Dean (LSBU Global)

Ulugbek Khalikov, Vice-rector (Tashkent State University of Economics)

Session Participants

- Jennifer Coupland, Chief Executive at the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE); Pro Vice-Chancellor (Skills Portfolio) (London South Bank University)
- Dr Mandy Crawford-Lee, Chief Executive at the University Vocational Awards Council (UVAC)
- Mark McKenna, Managing Director (Mindful Education)
- Azamat Nurmatov – Dean of Faculty (TEAM University)
- Bakhtiyor Makhkamov, rector (Tashkent University of Information Technologies named after Muhammad al-Khwarizmi)
- Olimjon Tuychiev, rector (Turin Polytechnic University in Tashkent)
- Bakhrom Mirkasimov, vice-rector (Westminster International University in Tashkent)

LSBU Hub, Southwark Lecture Theatre

15:00-15:30

Coffee break

LSBU Hub, Exhibition Space

Session 3

How do universities prepare students for jobs of the future?

15:30-16:15

Session description:

Entire industries are emerging and vanishing at speed.

Political norms are shifting.

Environmental urgency is accelerating.

Up to 65% of today's students will work in jobs that don't yet exist.

Universities face a fundamental challenge: How do we prepare students not just for the future — but for the unknown?

This session invites UK and Uzbek institutions to explore their evolving role as future-makers, not just educators. It will highlight how inclusive, industry-informed, and transnational approaches can unlock the agility, resilience, and entrepreneurial mindset students now need.

- **Format:** Concise, provocative presentations (delivered by the session moderators) will frame the discussion, followed by an inclusive, facilitated Q&A session that will involve the audience and encourage cross-cultural insight-sharing and collaborative dialogue.

This session will explore:

- The evolving internal and external context of higher education
- The entrepreneurial skillset: students need for agility, not just employability
- Utilising inclusive, industry-informed, transnational approaches to bridge the gap between institutional inertia and industry agility
- Enhancing existing higher educational practice for short-term wins
- Understanding the shifting values, expectations, and behaviours of students

Session Organisers/Moderators

Mohammed Ali, Head of Entrepreneurship, London South Bank University
Hikmat Abdurahmanov, Co-founder, TEAM University

Session Participants

Audience

LSBU Hub, Southwark Lecture Theatre

16:15 – 16:30	Closing Remarks Stuart Bannerman, Pro Vice Chancellor International (LSBU Global) <i>LSBU Hub, Southwark Lecture Theatre</i>
16:30 – 17:00	MoU signing and partnership discussions

Day 2

Venue: University of Westminster, Regent Campus, 309 Regent Street, London, W1B 2HW
[Get directions via Google Maps](#)

09:00-09:30	Registration / Networking
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09:30 – 10:00	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Bonfield, the President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Westminster • HE Ravshan Usmanov, Uzbekistan Ambassador to the UK • Representative of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovations of the Republic of Uzbekistan • Representative of the Ministry of Preschool and School Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan • Denise Waddingham, Director, British Council Uzbekistan
<p>Session 1</p> <p>10:00-11:15</p>	<p>Ensuring excellence in university governance and quality assurance: lessons learnt and next steps</p> <p>The session will highlight major HE reform priorities in Uzbekistan and discuss lessons learnt from initial pilots of University Governance and Quality Standards Draft Codes as a result of Uzbekistan-UK partnership work to strengthen capacity and pilot new co-created regulatory approaches to university governance and quality assurance.</p> <p>Session Organiser</p> <p>Alison Johns, CEO Advance HE</p> <p>Komiljon Karimov, Rector, Westminster International University in Tashkent</p> <p>Jamilya Gulyamova, Deputy Director, British Council Uzbekistan</p> <p>Session Chair/Moderators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alison Johns, CEO Advance HE <p>Session speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Komiljon Karimov, Rector, Westminster International University in Tashkent • Tullio Lobetti, QA Specialist, QAA Global • Farhod Ahrorov, Deputy rector, Samarkand branch of Tashkent State University of Economics • Jamilya Gulyamova, Deputy Director, British Council Uzbekistan • Firuza Ikromkhonova, Vice-Rector for International Cooperation (Tashkent State Pedagogical University) <p>Session Objectives</p> <p>A central characteristic of the Higher Education reforms is the granting of autonomy to higher education institutions. Critical elements of achieving this are effective governance and quality assurance. The session will discuss key priorities for higher education sector in Uzbekistan, present the outcomes and lessons learnt from initial pilots of University</p>

	<p>Governance and Quality Standards Draft Codes as a result of Uzbekistan-UK partnership work to strengthen capacity and pilot new co-created approaches. The session will explore how institutions can measure the effectiveness of their continuous improvement initiatives around quality assurance and university governance and how they create a culture that encourages feedback and innovation. It will also discuss the role of professional development in supporting continuous improvement. Presenters will explore the benefits of collaborative work in university governance and quality assurance to higher education institutions in Uzbekistan, discuss how this is enhancing ongoing reform and contributes to internationalisation and TNE development.</p>
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee
Session 2 11:30-12:45	<p>Developing stronger Inclusive Higher Education partnerships between Uzbekistan and UK.</p> <p>This session will survey key developments in inclusive Higher Education in Uzbekistan, present reports on key Inclusive University initiatives by the Working Group under the Ministry of HE, Science and Innovations to disseminate Good Practice Guide. It will share examples of partnership work to embed inclusion in university curriculum in Central Asia and launch two new Disability Inclusion Partnership projects funded by the British Council and engaging UK and Uzbekistan universities.</p> <p>Session Organisers Jamilya Gulyamova, Deputy Director, British Council Uzbekistan Dibyesh Anand Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Westminster</p> <p>Session Chair/Moderator Denise Waddingham, Country Director, British Council Uzbekistan</p> <p>Session Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gulchehra Rikhsieva, Rector, Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies • Jamilya Gulyamova, Deputy Director, British Council Uzbekistan • Martin Seviour, Principal Lecturer, Nottingham Trent University • Andrew Linn, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Westminster • Olanrewaju Olaoye, Programme lead, University of Lincoln • Usmon Sharifkhodjayev, Deputy Director, National Agency for Social Protection, Uzbekistan <p>Session Objectives</p> <p>The session will focus on the landscape of inclusive higher education in Uzbekistan and update on recent developments. Starting with an overview from the Inclusive University Working Group under the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovations of the Republic of Uzbekistan (MHESI), it will go on to outline key practical steps to use Inclusive Higher Education stakeholder mapping and the Inclusive Higher Education Good Practice Guide by national and international</p>

	<p>initiatives intended to engage key stakeholders, raise awareness and support the enhancement of inclusive education in Higher Education in Uzbekistan. During the session lessons learnt from Uzbekistan-UK “English and Inclusion” higher education partnerships will be shared by project leads; the programme is part of AELLCA UK Government funded programme and delivered by the British Council. And finally, two new Uzbekistan-UK Disability Inclusion Partnership projects, led by the University of Westminster and the University of East London, will be launched.</p> <p>Session Outcomes</p> <p>The session is intended to support the further enhancement of inclusive Higher Education in Uzbekistan. It will present the outcomes of concrete projects to embed inclusive practices in university curriculum and launch two new projects aimed at ensuring that good practice in inclusive education is shared, implemented and widely embedded.</p>
12:45 - 14:00	Lunch
Session 3 14:00 - 15:00	<p>Uzbekistan-UK TNE collaborations: learning from good practice and supporting wider reforms in higher education.</p> <p>This session will outline global trends in TNE development, present key findings of TNE mapping in Uzbekistan, update on Uzbekistan TNE Good Practice network established in 2024 and share examples of good practice as well as some finding of how research collaborations contribute to TNE development in Uzbekistan.</p> <p>Session Organiser</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session Chair: • Komiljon Karimov, Rector, WIUT • Stephen Wallis, Director TNE, University of Westminster <p>Preparation lead: Jamilya, Stephen</p> <p>Session Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eduardo Ramos, the British Council tbc • Griff Ryan, Head of TNE, UUKi • Andrew Linn, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Knowledge • Shukhrat Kholmuminov, The Founder UDEA/Coventry • Dildora Ishankhodjaeva, Vice-rector (MDIST) • Students Union, University of Westminster • Dono Abdurahmanova, Uzbekistan’s Student Union in the UK • Jamilya Gulyamova, Deputy Director, British Council Uzbekistan <p>Session Objectives</p>

	<p>The British Council research around the value of TNE demonstrates that it widens access to quality education, leads to capacity building and institutional development, enhances students' experience and graduate outcomes, builds sustainable communities, and contributes to sustainable change and economic development of participating countries. This session will describe the global TNE landscape and its key features in Uzbekistan, present newly established Uzbekistan TNE Good Practice network and its priorities and will share examples of good practice and finding of recent research projects in this area.</p> <p>Session Outcomes</p> <p>The session will enable participants to learn more about the value and impact of TNE and positive change it brings about globally and in Uzbekistan. Participants will learn about newly established TNE good practice network and the membership benefits. The session will also share examples of good practice from TNE providers working in Uzbekistan and discuss how UK-Uzbekistan TNE collaborations and international learning can support wider HE developments in Uzbekistan.</p>
15:15 – 16:00	Wrap up/next steps
16:00 – 16:30	MoU signing and partnership discussions
16.30	Finish/Tour of campus