

## Uzbekistan – United Kingdom Education Forum March 4-5, 2024

Universities and university partnerships as engines for change:

The impact of UK-Uzbekistan educational relations locally and globally

**Venue:** Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT), Shakhrisabz Building, Room 501

**Registration:** Shakhrisabz Building, Ground Floor, Room 101

**Address:** Amir Temur Street, 97A, Tashkent, 100047, Uzbekistan, (<https://wiut.uz/contact-us>)

### Programme

**Aim:** The forum will address core priorities for higher education (HE) in Uzbekistan, the UK and globally and highlight key ways in which these priorities are delivered, including through transnational collaborations. The impact of HE policy, practice and partnerships will be a focus throughout.

### Day one

**09.00–09.50 Registration / welcome coffee / press briefing / networking**  
Shakhrisabz Building, Ground Floor, Room 101

**10.00–10.40 Opening remarks**

- Bakhrom Mirkasimov, Rector of Westminster International University in Tashkent (chair)
- Komiljon Karimov, First Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovations of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- Timothy Smart, His Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Uzbekistan
- Denise Waddingham, Director, British Council Uzbekistan
- Peter Bonfield, Vice Chancellor and President, University of Westminster, UK

**Session one 11.00–12.30 Meeting the needs of global and local contexts and making positive change: the role of universities and university partnerships**

This session focuses on the critical role played by HE policy, higher education institutions (HEIs) and HE collaborations in changing society for the better, in local and global contexts. It will discuss how universities respond to the changing needs of the global and local environments and markets. It is intended to stimulate reflection on the practices that enable that role to be developed and delivered.

#### *Session organisers*

- Jamilya Gulyamova, Deputy Director, British Council Uzbekistan
- Alexandra Hughes, Former Deputy Vice Chancellor (Global Engagement and Employability), University of Westminster

#### *Session chairs*

- Denise Waddingham, Director, British Council Uzbekistan

#### *Session participants*

- Komiljon Karimov, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovations of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- Saurav Dev Bhatta, Senior Economist, World Bank
- Maddalaine Ansell, Director Education, British Council, UK
- Gerald Lidstone, Director, ICCE, Goldsmiths
- Viren Lall, Managing Director, ChangeSchool

## Day one

**12.30–13.20**    **Networking lunch**

**Session two**    **Ensuring excellence in university governance and quality assurance: case studies in good practice**  
**13.30–15.00**

The session will highlight major HE reform priorities in Uzbekistan and discuss initial reports on Uzbekistan-UK partnership work to understand the needs and ambitions, strengthen capacity and pilot of a new co-created approaches to university governance and quality assurance.

*Session organisers*

- Jamilya Gulyamova, Deputy Director, British Council Uzbekistan
- Alison Johns, CEO Advance HE

*Session chair*

- Alison Johns, CEO Advance HE

*Session participants*

- Inojatullo Nematov, Head of Division, Ministry of HESI
- Alison Johns, CEO Advance HE
- Vicki Stott, CEO, QAA
- Julie Till, Head of Global Business Development, QAA
- Jamilya Gulyamova, Deputy Director, British Council Uzbekistan

**15.00–15.30**    **Coffee break**

**15.15–15.30**    **MoUs signing**

**Session three**    **Developing inclusive higher education in Uzbekistan: a presentation of the Inclusive HE stakeholder mapping exercise and the Good Practice Guide**  
**15.30–17.00**

This session will introduce and survey key developments in inclusive higher education in Uzbekistan, in order to share good practice and support its further dissemination and implementation.

*Session organisers*

- Jamilya Gulyamova, Deputy Director, British Council Uzbekistan
- Alexandra Hughes, Former Deputy Vice Chancellor (Global Engagement and Employability), University of Westminster, UK

*Session chair*

- Gulchehra Rikhsieva, Rector, Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies

*Session participants*

- Dildora Solikhodjaeva, Gender/EDI lead, MHESI
- Abdulla Abdukhalilov, National University, Deputy Chair of Association of People with Disabilities
- Jamilya Gulyamova, Deputy Director, British Council Uzbekistan
- Alexandra Hughes, Former Deputy Vice Chancellor (Global Engagement and Employability), University of Westminster
- Tatjana An, British Council Women in STEM scholar, University of Portsmouth
- Azizakhon Turakhujaeva, British Council Women in STEM scholar, University of Portsmouth

## Day two

**Session four**     **Trends and developments in TNE and priorities for Uzbekistan – UK transnational education (TNE) collaboration: how Uzbekistan-UK TNE collaborations and international learning can support wider HE developments in Uzbekistan**  
09.30–11.00

This session will outline a global perspective on the value of TNE, discuss opportunities and challenges in TNE development (illustrated by some case studies) and present initial findings of TNE mapping in Uzbekistan.

*Session chair*

- Nishat Riaz (Head of HE systems and Internationalisation, British Council, UK)

*Preparation lead*

- Jamilya, Nishat

*Session participants*

- Nilgun Yalcin, Global Research Manager, British Council, Wider Europe
- Stephen Wallis, Director TNE, University of Westminster
- David Carter, Professor of Transnational Education, University of Reading
- Hikmat Abdurahmanov, Founder, TEAM University
- Abdumalik Djumanov, Rector, Pharmaceutical Technical University

**Session five**     **Enabling innovation and impact in research, knowledge exchange and technology transfer: case studies in good practice**  
11.00–12.30

This session will address the critical impact of research, knowledge exchange, and technology transfer in global, national, and local environments, addressing how these activities central to higher education contribute to the production and embedding of social, economic, cultural, and educational change and reflecting on how that contribution can be monitored and evaluated.

*Session organisers and chair*

- Bakhrom Mirkasimov, Rector, Westminster International University, Tashkent

*Session participants*

- Dibyesh Anand, Deputy Vice Chancellor Employability and Global Engagement, University of Westminster
- Shahlo Turdikulova, Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovations of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- Adkham Khudoykulov, Director - Education Sector Projects Office
- Lachyn Italmazova, Regional Director – Europe and Central Asia, THE (Times Higher Education)
- Ayhan Akanay Saracoglu, Senior Research Account Manager – Turkiye & Central Asia Elsevier

**12.30–13.00**     **Closing session**  
Reports from session chairs: learning points and action.

**13.00–14.00**     **Networking lunch**  
Networking lunches will be part of the conference and will provide a platform for partnership development discussions.

**14.00–15.00**     **Tour of WIUT campus**