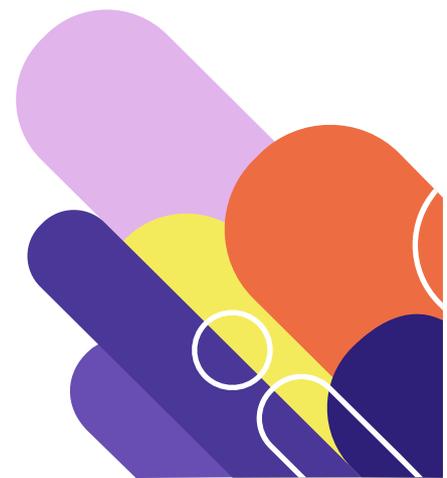




Regional Symposium

# TNE: Quality Assurance and Inclusion in the Context of Growth

3-4 March 2026  
Tashkent, Uzbekistan



## Uzbekistan Regional TNE Symposium 2026

### **Theme: *TNE Quality Assurance and Inclusion in the Context of Growth***

Taking place on 3-4 March 2026, the Regional TNE Symposium builds on the Uzbekistan–UK Education Forum series and aims to address key priorities for higher education at national and regional levels, within the context of international transnational education (TNE). The 2026 Symposium will focus on quality assurance in the context of significant growth in TNE in Uzbekistan and the wider region, highlighting how institutions are responding to rapid expansion in TNE provision while safeguarding academic standards and student outcomes. Throughout the programme, discussions will explore the impact of higher education policy, practice, and partnerships in supporting sustainable, high-quality TNE provision. On the second day, participants will have the opportunity to join campus visits to selected universities in Tashkent that play a key role in the delivery of UK TNE.

The Symposium is organised in partnership with the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the British Council, Westminster International University in Tashkent, and Uzbekistan’s TNE Good Practice Network.

**When:** 3-4 March 2026

**Venue:** Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT). *Directions to WIUT’s Shakhrisabz Building (ShB): [Google Maps](#)*

### **Target Audience:**

- Institutional representatives and quality assurance agencies from Central Asia and the UK
- UK-Central Asia TNE providers and practitioners
- Policy makers, and higher education experts in the region

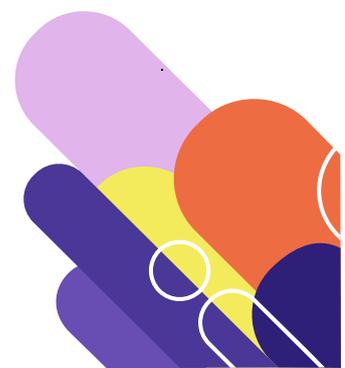
## Programme

### Day 1

<p><b>09:00-10:00</b></p> <p><b>Foyer and SHB-501</b></p>	<p><b>Registration / Networking</b></p>
<p><b>10:00-10:30</b></p> <p><b>SHB-501</b></p>	<p><b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Komiljon Karimov, Rector, WIUT</li> <li>• James Roed-Moor, Deputy Head of Mission, British Embassy Tashkent</li> <li>• Sardor Rajabov, Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Uzbekistan</li> <li>• Gulnoza Ismailova, "El-Yurt Umidi" Foundation</li> <li>• Michael Houlgate, Director, British Council Uzbekistan</li> </ul>
<p><b>10:30-11:20</b></p> <p><b>SHB-501</b></p>	<p><b>Opening Plenary on Quality Assurance in the Context of Growth</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Jamilya Gulyamova, British Council Uzbekistan</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Education transformation programme in Uzbekistan and internationalisation</i> Bakhtiyor Yuldashev, National Quality Assurance Agency for Education under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan</li> <li>• <i>QA and inclusion in the context of TNE growth</i> Vicki Stott, UK Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education</li> <li>• <i>Leadership and excellence in teaching and learning in the context of TNE development</i> Charles Knight, Advance HE, UK</li> </ul>
<p><b>Session 1</b></p> <p><b>11:20-12:30</b></p> <p><b>SHB-501</b></p>	<p><b>TNE Landscape and Exploring Models of Collaboration</b></p> <p><b>Session Description</b> This session will present an overview of the current TNE landscape in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan and explore different TNE models in operation across different institutional and national contexts. The session will support a panel discussion aimed at helping participants consider which approaches may be most appropriate for their own strategic priorities.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Nilgün Yalçın Felchner, British Council</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> David Prentice, EduEurasia, UK</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b> Jean Paul van Marissing, Webster University Tashkent Rustam Abduraupov, University of Digital Economics and Agrotechnologies Lionel Henderson, British Management University Ilkhom Mamatkulov, MDIST</p>

12:30 SHB-501	<b>Group Photo</b>
12:30-13:30 SHB-202	<b>Lunch break and networking</b>
13:30-14:30 SHB-306	<p><b>Concurrent Workshop Sessions</b></p> <p><b>Workshop 1:</b> Industry engagement and employability in the TNE context</p> <p><b>Session Description</b> This workshop will explore industry engagement in the TNE context, including partnerships that support employability as well as models of industry investment and financial backing of TNE initiatives. Using examples from different contexts, the session will consider how industry collaboration can strengthen the sustainability and relevance of TNE provision.</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Hikmat Abdurahmanov, TEAM University <b>Workshop Leaders:</b> Mark Crossey, University of East London, UK Munira Aminova, International Agriculture University Andrew Wachtel, TEAM University Washad Emambocus, De Montfort University, UK Abdumalik Djumanov, Pharmaceutical Technical University</p>
13:30-14:30 SHB-503	<p><b>Concurrent Workshop Sessions</b></p> <p><b>Workshop 2:</b> Inclusion and Students as Partners in TNE Quality Assurance</p> <p><b>Session Description</b> This workshop will explore how inclusion and student partnership are embedded within quality assurance processes in TNE delivery. Drawing on experience from regional TNE providers, it will examine how institutions involve students in programme design, delivery, and review, and how inclusive approaches are applied across TNE partnerships.</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Nodira Isamukhamedova, WIUT <b>Workshop Leaders:</b> Olanrewaju Olaoye, University of Lincoln, UK Gosia Kwiatkowska, University of East London, UK Gulnaz Bektemirova, WIUT Mirsaid Mukhtarov, WIUT Firdavskhon Aminova, Pharmaceutical Technical University</p>
13:30-14:30 SHB-501	<p><b>Concurrent Workshop Sessions</b></p> <p><b>Workshop 3:</b> Institutional Governance and Quality in TNE</p> <p><b>Session Description</b> This workshop will examine the role of university governance in assuring academic quality within TNE programmes and partnerships. It will explore different governance models and consider how leadership structures, decision-making processes, and institutional oversight support effective governance across TNE provision.</p>

	<p><b>Chair:</b> Charles Knight, Advance HE, UK</p> <p><b>Workshop Leaders:</b>  Peter Bonfield, University of Westminster, UK  Aissata Edmondson, London South Bank University, UK  Olgun Cicek, TNE Institute and University of Ljubljana, Slovenia  Ilham Humbatov, Webster University Tashkent</p>
14:30-15:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
SHB-202 Session 2	<p><b>Moderator:</b> David Prentice, EduEurasia, UK</p> <p><b>Part 1: Findings of TNE Reports Review</b></p> <p><b>Session Description:</b>  This session will provide general trends of TNE development in Uzbekistan, and Central Asia in a broader context. The session will summarize the main findings of TNE reports with implications to the region.</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Mukhammadfoik Bakhadirov, WIUT</p> <p><b>Part 2: Findings of Quality Assurance Mapping and Case Studies in the Context of UK TNE Growth in Uzbekistan</b></p> <p><b>Session Description:</b>  This session will introduce the preliminary findings of the recently commissioned British Council study: <i>Quality Assurance in UK–Uzbekistan Transnational Education: Policies, Practices, &amp; Challenges in the Context of Growth</i>.</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Khikmatullo Urazbaev, WIUT</p>
15:00-16:15 SHB-501	
16:15 – 16:30	<b>Day one closing remarks</b>
SHB-501	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Komiljon Karimov, WIUT</p> <p><i>Transnational Education in Uzbekistan: Overview and Closing Session for the Day 1</i></p>
16:30 – 18:00	<b>Campus visit at WIUT</b>
SHB, IB, ATB LRC and Sports Centre	Participants at the Symposium will have the opportunity to visit WIUT’s Learning Resource Centre (LRC), Bloomberg Lab, Multimedia Studio and other facilities.
18:15 – 20:15	<b>Networking reception dinner</b>
SHB-101	



## Day 2

09:00-09:30 SHB Foyer	<b>Registration</b>
9:30-11:00 SHB-101	<p><b>From Learning to Action: Advancing Transnational Education in Central Asia</b></p> <p><b>Session Description</b> This interactive workshop will draw together key insights from the symposium and focus on translating them into practical next steps for TNE in Central Asia. Participants will break into different thematic groups to discuss priorities, expectations, and what each group needs from the others to strengthen collaboration. The session will conclude with a whole-group discussion to share perspectives and identify areas for collective action to support high-quality, inclusive, and sustainable TNE in the region moving forward.</p> <p><b>Moderators:</b> Olgun Cicek, TNE Institute and University of Ljubljana, Slovenia David Prentice, EduEurasia, UK Komiljon Karimov, WIUT</p>
11:15-11:30 SHB-101	<p><b>Advancing Research Engagement &amp; Academic Collaboration: New Uzbekistan University Partnerships</b></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Azizbek Marakhimov, New Uzbekistan University</p>
11:30-12:15 SHB-101	<p><b>Closing Session and Wrap-Up</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Peter Bonfield, University of Westminster, UK</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b> Vicki Stott, UK Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education Charles Knight, Advance HE, UK Jamilya Gulyamova, British Council Uzbekistan David Prentice, EduEurasia, UK Hikmat Abdurahmonov, TEAM University Nodira Isamukhamedova, WIUT Komiljon Karimov, WIUT Nilgün Yalçın Felchner, British Council</p> <p>This closing session will provide an opportunity for participants to share feedback and reflections from the Symposium. An open floor discussion will invite final comments, key takeaways, and perspectives from across the participant group, bringing the event to a close.</p>
12:15 - 13:30 SHB-202	<b>Lunch and networking</b>

<b>13:30-17:00</b>	<b>Campus visits to TNE providers in Tashkent</b>  The campus visits will give participants the opportunity to visit Pharmaceutical Technical University in the Innovation Research-Industrial Pharmaceutical Cluster 'Tashkent Pharma Park', Management Development Institute of Singapore (MDIS), and TEAM University, offering insight into different institutional models and approaches to delivering TNE in Uzbekistan. Transportation will be provided by bus.  <i>Buses will leave from WIUT Shakhrisabz Building</i>
--------------------	---

For more information, please contact the Symposium organising committee representative Mukhammadfoik Bakhadirov at [mbakhadirov@wiut.uz](mailto:mbakhadirov@wiut.uz).

