



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.

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

When: March 3–4, 2026

Venue: Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT). *Directions to WIUT's Shakhhrisabz 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

Proposed Programme

Day 1

09:00-10:00	<p>Registration / Networking</p> <p><i>WIUT Shakhrisabz Building, Foyer and SHB-501 Conference Hall</i></p>
10:00-10:30	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Komiljon Karimov, Rector, WIUT • H.E. Timothy Smart, UK Ambassador (TBC) • Sardor Rajabov, Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovations of the Republic of Uzbekistan • Michael Houlgate, Director, British Council Uzbekistan
10:30-11:00	<p>Opening Plenary on the Quality Assurance in HE</p> <p>Moderator: Jamiliya Gulyamova</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bakhtiyor Yuldashev, National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education • Vicki Stott, UK Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education • Charles Knight, Advance HE
Session 1 11:00-12:15	<p>TNE Landscape and Exploring Models of Collaboration</p> <p>Session Description 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>Moderator: David Prentice, EduEurasia</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p>Laura Karabasova, K.Zhubanov Aktobe Regional University (TBC) Jean Paul van Marissing, Webster University Tashkent Rustam Abduraupov, UDEA (TBC) Lionel Henderson, BMU Ilhom Mamatkulov, MDIS (TBC)</p> <p><i>WIUT Shakhrisabz Building, SHB-501 Conference Hall</i></p>
12:15-13:30	<p>Lunch break and networking</p> <p><i>WIUT Shakhrisabz Building, SHB-202 or SHB Canteen Venue (TBC)</i></p>
13:30-14:30	<p>Concurrent Workshop Sessions</p> <p>Workshop 1: Industry engagement and employability in the TNE context</p>

	<p>Session Description 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>Chair: Hikmat Abdurakhmonov, TEAM University (TBC) Workshop Leaders: Mark Crossey, University of East London Paul Kett, London South Bank University Munira Aminova, IAU (TBC) Kasim Sheikh, De Montfort University Abdumalik Djumanov, PTU (TBC)</p> <p><i>WIUT Shakhrisabz Building, SHB-501 Conference Hall</i></p>
13:30-14:30	<p>Concurrent Workshop Sessions</p> <p>Workshop 2: Inclusion and Students as Partners in TNE Quality Assurance</p> <p>Session Description 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>Chair: Nodira Isamukhamedova, WIUT Workshop Leaders: Olanrewaju Olaoye, University of Lincoln Gulchehra Rikhsieva, Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies (TBC) Gulnaz Bektemirova, WIUT Mirsaid Mukhtarov, WIUT (TBC) SU representative from TNE (TBC)</p> <p><i>WIUT Shakhrisabz Building, SHB-11 Basement</i></p>
13:30-14:30	<p>Concurrent Workshop Sessions</p> <p>Workshop 3: Institutional Governance and Quality in TNE</p> <p>Session Description 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>Chair: Charles Knight, Advance HE Workshop Leaders: Peter Bonfield, University of Westminster, London (TBC) Stuart Bannerman, London South Bank University (TBC)</p>

	<p>Aigerim Kaumenova, The International Association for Management Development in Dynamic Societies, Kazakhstan (TBC) Ilham Humbatov, Webster University Tashkent</p> <p><i>WIUT Shakhrisabz Building, SHB-306 Samarkand Boardroom</i></p>
14:30-15:00	<p>Coffee break</p> <p><i>WIUT Shakhrisabz Building, SHB-202</i></p>
Session 2	<p>Moderator: Nilgün Yalçın Felchner, British Council (TBC)</p> <p>Part 1: Findings of TNE Reports Review</p> <p>Session Description: 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>Presenter: Mukhammadfoik Bakhadirov, WIUT</p> <p>Part 2: Findings of Quality Assurance Mapping and Case Studies in the Context of UK TNE Growth in Uzbekistan</p> <p>Session Description: This session will introduce the preliminary findings of the recently commissioned British Council study: <i>Quality Assurance in UK–Uzbekistan Transnational Education: Policies, Practices, & Challenges in the Context of Growth</i>.</p> <p>Presenter: Khikmatullo Urazbaev, WIUT</p> <p><i>WIUT Shakhrisabz Building, SHB-501 Conference Hall</i></p>
16:15 – 16:30	<p>Day one closing remarks</p> <p>Moderator: Komiljon Karimov, WIUT</p> <p><i>Transnational Education in Uzbekistan: Overview and Closing Session for the Day 1</i></p> <p><i>WIUT Shakhrisabz Building, SHB-501 Conference Hall</i></p>

Day 2

09:00-09:30	<p>Registration</p> <p><i>WIUT Shakhrisabz Building, Foyer</i></p>
9:30-11:00	<p>From Learning to Action: Advancing Transnational Education in Central Asia</p>

	<p>Session Description 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>Moderators: Olgun Cicek, TNE Institute & University of Ljubljana David Prentice, EduEurasia Komiljon Karimov, WIUT</p> <p><i>WIUT Shakhrisabz Building, SHB-101 Social Zone</i></p>
11:15-12:00	<p>Closing Session and Wrap-Up</p> <p>Moderator: Peter Bonfield, University of Westminster, London (TBC)</p> <p>Panellists: TBC</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> <p><i>WIUT Shakhrisabz Building, SHB-101 Social Zone</i></p>
12:00 - 13:30	<p>Lunch and networking</p> <p><i>WIUT Shakhrisabz Building, SHB-202 or SHB Canteen Venue (TBC)</i></p>
13:30-17:00	<p>Campus visits to TNE providers in Tashkent</p> <p>The campus visits will give participants the opportunity to visit Pharmaceutical Technical University of Uzbekistan, Management Development Institute of Singapore (MDIS), TEAM University, and British Management University in Tashkent, offering insight into different institutional models and approaches to delivering TNE in Uzbekistan. Transportation will be provided by bus.</p> <p><i>Buses will leave from [add location]</i></p>

For more information, please contact the Symposium organising committee representative Mukhammadfoik Bakhadirov at mbakhadirov@wiut.uz.