



INDEPENDENT HIGHER EDUCATION

DELEGATE GUIDE

Annual Conference 2024

#IHE2024

Tuesday 26 November 2024

One Great George Street, London

ihe.ac.uk



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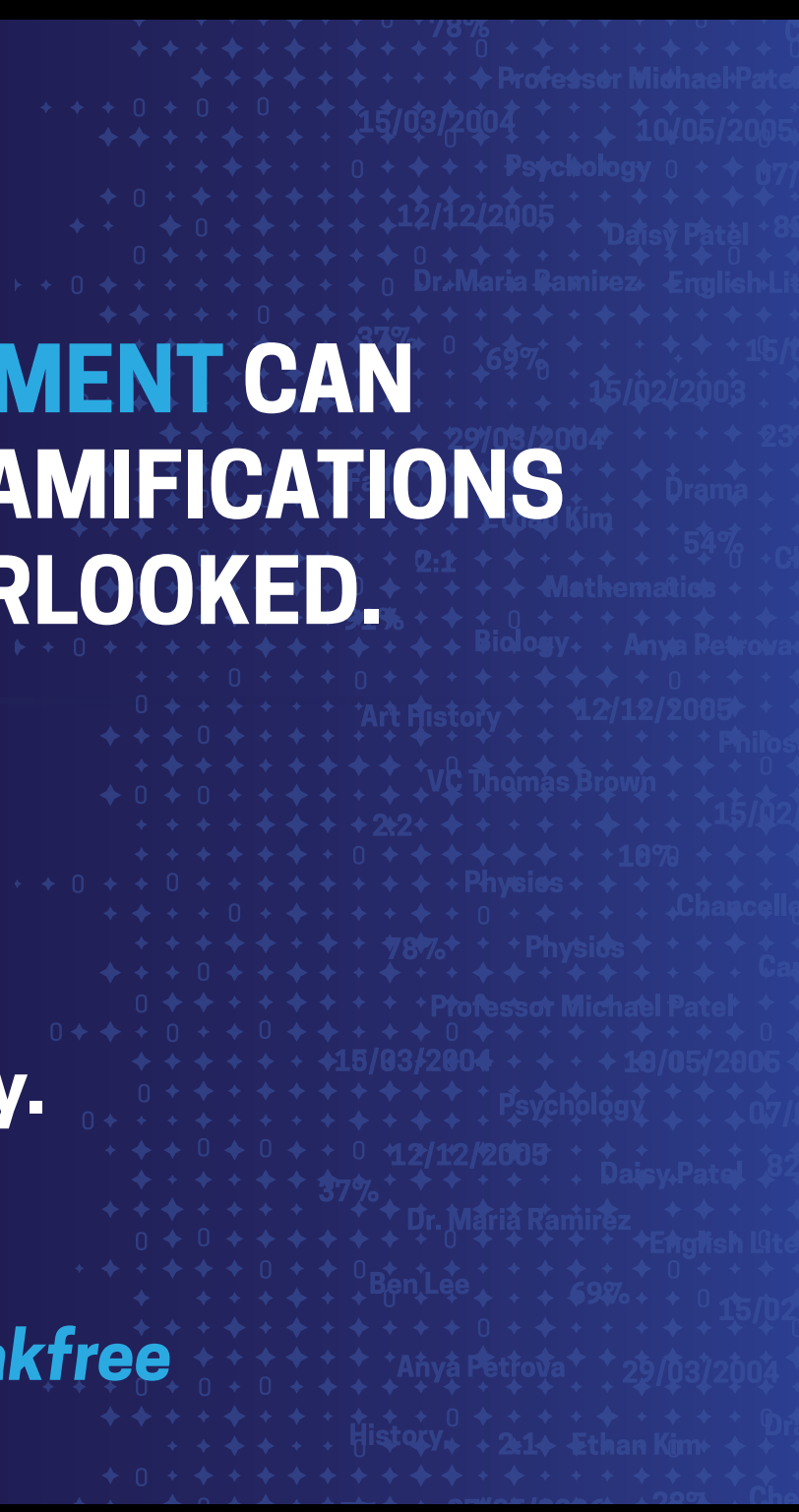
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DELEGATE GUIDE

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5 Speaker profiles



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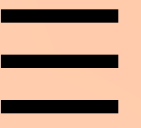


7 Exhibition floor plan



8 IHE Awards 2024





WELCOME

Welcome to the Independent Higher Education Annual Conference 2024

We are back for the second year in Westminster, where the winds of political change are blowing through the grand halls and corridors of One Great George Street. The Labour Party's general election victory has seen a new wave of political priorities and personalities break on the shores of SW1. What this sea change means for the independent higher education sector will be the underlying theme of many of today's sessions, and doubtless the conversations in between.

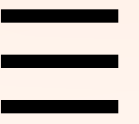


Today's programme is punctuated with three fantastic plenary sessions. The morning session will see **Baroness Jacqui Smith**, the Minister for Skills, set out the new Government's priorities and her vision for higher education. An expert panel will analyse how a stronger focus on skills and regional growth might play out in [**The skills solution: a strategy for people, place and productivity.**](#)

At midday, we return to everyone's favourite topic with [**Fit for an uncertain future: reimagining higher education regulation,**](#) welcoming back [**Philippa Pickford**](#), Director of Regulation at the Office for Students, to talk through their new approach in the wake of a public bodies review, and the finances of the sector on high alert. Our panel of leaders and academics will explore the interplay between regulation and system change across the UK.

Professor Sir Steve Smith, the UK's International Education Champion, will set the scene for the closing afternoon plenary [**Global strategies to drive local growth: building new links between education and trade,**](#) with our diverse panel drawing inspiration from other sectors and global trends to chart a way forward for UK education on the world stage.

In between plenaries, there are eight different breakout sessions to choose from across critical



issues of governance, visas, financial sustainability, technology and much more.

A packed exhibition hall is waiting for you to discover some of the latest products and services to help your institution succeed. We couldn't put on this event without the generous support of our exhibitors and sponsors, including this year's Gold Sponsors Jisc and Tribal.

Finally, I would be delighted if you would join us for an evening of celebration at the IHE Awards. With ten new IHE members in 2024 so far, and an awards shortlist with some incredible examples of excellence across the sector, there is certainly much to celebrate.

I wish you a very enjoyable and thought-provoking day.



Alex Proudfoot
Chief Executive
Independent Higher Education

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 [@AlexProudfootUK >](#)



EVENT INFORMATION

Venue



Accessibility



Assistance on the day



Registration



Wi-Fi access



Health and safety



Cloakroom and security

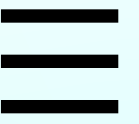


Photography and filming



Social media





Venue

For more information about the venue please visit the [One Great George Street website](#).

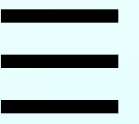
Accessibility

We are using rooms across three floors of the venue. One Great George Street has an ongoing programme of [accessibility improvements](#).

Please visit the [venue's website](#) for further details about access points. If you have accessibility needs, please inform a member of the event team on arrival.

Assistance on the day

If you have any questions or require assistance on the day, please visit the registration desk on the first floor where a member of the event team will be able to help you.



Registration

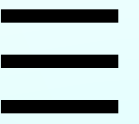
The registration desk is on the first floor. Delegates should register on arrival at the venue. All delegates will be provided with a name badge, which must be worn at all times.

Wi-Fi access

Free Wi-Fi access is available at the venue. Please select OneGreatGeorgeStreet and agree to the terms and conditions of use.

Health and safety

Please follow One Great George Street's [**safety regulations**](#) in the event of a fire. For fire evacuation purposes it is a legal requirement that disabled delegates register with reception.

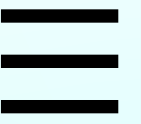


Cloakroom and security

Delegates should use the staffed cloakroom on the ground floor. Items of value should not be left unattended. We are unable to accept responsibility for missing items. Unattended items may be removed by the venue and they reserve the right to carry out bag searches.

Photography and filming

A photographer will be present at the event. If you would like to be edited out of any media, please identify yourself at reception and you will be provided with an orange lanyard. To any attendees taking photographs or video at the conference, please respect the wishes of those wearing an orange lanyard and either refrain from capturing them or remove them via editing from any media captured at the event.



Social media

Please share your conference experience via the event hashtag **#IHE2024**, and remember to follow and tag us on:

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 [@Independent_HE >](#)





AGENDA

Morning plenary



Midday plenary



Breakout session 1

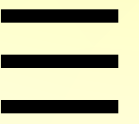


Breakout session 2



Afternoon plenary





09:00-10:00

Registration, refreshments and exhibition

📍 ROTUNDA AND GREAT HALL - FIRST FLOOR

10:00-10:05

Welcome

James Pitman, Chair of the Board, Independent Higher Education

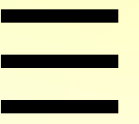
📍 TELFORD THEATRE - FIRST FLOOR

10:05-10:15

Chief Executive's address

Alex Proudfoot, Chief Executive, Independent Higher Education

📍 TELFORD THEATRE - FIRST FLOOR



10:15-10:30

Ministerial speech >

Rt Hon Baroness Jacqui Smith, Minister for Skills
(pre-recorded)

📍 **TELFORD THEATRE - FIRST FLOOR**

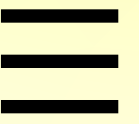
10:30-11:30

The skills solution: a strategy for people, place and productivity >

👤 **Chair: Rachel Nicholson**, Head of Institution, Academy of Live Technology, and IHE Board Member

- **Professor Sir Chris Husbands**, Director, Higher Futures
- **Madeleine Sumption**, Director of the Migration Observatory, University of Oxford
- **Sarah Howard**, Chair, British Chambers of Commerce
- **Lewis Cooper**, Director of Public Affairs and Campaigns, Association of Colleges
- **Patrick Curry**, Director of Higher Education Oversight, Department for Education

📍 **TELFORD THEATRE - FIRST FLOOR**



11:30-12:00

Refreshments, networking and exhibition

📍 GREAT HALL

12:00-13:00

Fit for an uncertain future: reimagining regulation >

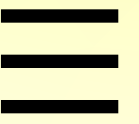
Philippa Pickford, Director of Regulation,
Office for Students

FOLLOWED BY:

👤 Chair: Professor Phil Deans, President and Vice
Chancellor, Richmond American University London,
and Vice Chair of the IHE Board

- **Vivienne Stern**, Chief Executive, Universities UK
- **Alex Proudfoot**, Chief Executive, Independent
Higher Education
- **Professor Ewart Keep**, Emeritus Professor of
Education, Training and Skills at the Department
of Education, University of Oxford
- **Professor Nic Beech**, Chair, Quality Council
for UK Higher Education, and Vice-Chancellor,
University of Salford

📍 TELFORD THEATRE – FIRST FLOOR



13:00-14:00

Lunch, networking and exhibition

📍 GREAT HALL - FIRST FLOOR

14:00-14:50

BREAKOUT SESSION 1

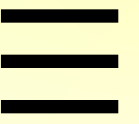
Delegates do not need to pre-select breakout sessions.

Session 1A - What do we need to consider when student data is driving our analytics and AI strategy? >

👤 Chair: Rachel Nicholson, Head of Institution, Academy of Live Technology, and IHE Board Member

- **Nuala Polo**, AI Assurance Lead, Department for Science, Innovation and Technology
- **Rob Summers**, Research Programmes Manager, TASO
- **Professor Dr Thorsten Fröhlich**, SME IT and Technology Programs, LIBF
- **Sean Ruane**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Mind Data

📍 TELFORD THEATRE - FIRST FLOOR

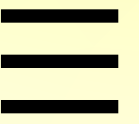


Session 1B – Student of 2030 >

Chair: [Jake Howarth](#), Student, Dyson Institute of Engineering and Technology, and Vice Chair of the IHE Student Advisory Board

- **[Josh Freeman](#)**, Policy Manager, Higher Education Policy Institute
- **[Guy Michelmore](#)**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Thinkspace Education
- **[Dr Michelle Morgan](#)**, Dean of Students, University of East London
- **[Jack Medlin](#)**, PhD candidate in Higher Education Policy, Keele University

📍 COUNCIL ROOM – GROUND FLOOR



Session 1C – Graduates for growth >

Chair: Professor Phil Deans, President and Vice Chancellor, Richmond American University London, and Vice Chair of the IHE Board

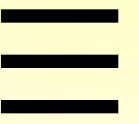
Dr Kieran Reeves, Director of Motorsport, National Motorsport Academy

Allan Rankin, Founder and Managing Director, Target3D

Matt Dowling, Founder, Freelancer Club

Dr Mandy Crawford-Lee, Chief Executive, University Vocational Awards Council

📍 PALMER ROOM – LOWER GROUND FLOOR

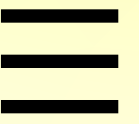


Session 1D – Creating our future leaders >

Chair: [Marion Lowe](#), Chief Operating Officer, S P Jain London School of Management, and IHE Board Member

- **[Jules Brookes](#)**, Head of Provider, pointblank Music School
- **[Christie Jay Beauchamp](#)**, Registrar, pointblank Music School
- **[Colin Ferguson](#)**, Executive Director, Association of Higher Education Professionals
- **[Professor Will Foster](#)**, Senior Consultant Leadership, Organisational Development and Research, Advance HE

📍 RENNIE ROOM – LOWER GROUND FLOOR



15:00-15:30

Refreshments, networking and exhibition

📍 GREAT HALL - FIRST FLOOR

15:30-16:20

BREAKOUT SESSION 2

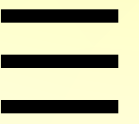
Delegates do not need to pre-select breakout sessions.

Session 2A – Building financially sustainable HE through innovation >

👤 Chair: Colin Castelino, Honorary Treasurer, IHE Board, and Chair of the IHE Finance and Resources Committee

- **Charlotte Corrish**, Head of Public Policy, Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education
- **Jess Lister**, Associate Director (Education), Public First
- **Julie Mercer**, Principal and Nous UK Office Lead
- **Maria Dunbar**, Director of Education, Leiths Education

📍 TELFORD THEATRE – FIRST FLOOR



Session 2B – Student visas: reflections and next steps >

Chair: [Anne-Marie Graham](#), Chief Executive, UK Council for International Student Affairs

- **[Josh Rainsford](#)**, Assistant Director for Study Services, UK Visas and Immigration, Home Office
- **[Esyllt Martin](#)**, Senior Associate (Employment & Global Mobility), Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP

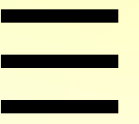
📍 COUNCIL ROOM – GROUND FLOOR

Session 2C – Equality of opportunity for the student of 2025 >

Chair: [Dr Chris Hayne](#), IHE Consultant, and Head of Widening Participation, pointblank Music School

- **[Brian Pepin](#)**, Principal Policy Adviser, UCAS
- **[Jake Howarth](#)**, Student, Dyson Institute of Engineering and Technology, and Vice Chair of the IHE Student Advisory Board
- **[Naomi Clayton](#)**, Director of Policy and Research, Learning and Work Institute

📍 PALMER ROOM – LOWER GROUND FLOOR



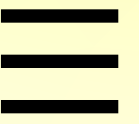
Session 2D – Governing in the student interest >

Chair: Kelly Coate, Provost, Richmond American University London

- **Dr Debbie McVitty**, Editor, Wonkhe
- **Mary Curnock Cook CBE**, Chair, Dyson Institute of Engineering and Technology
- **James Coe**, Senior Partner and Director, Counterculture

📍 RENNIE ROOM – LOWER GROUND FLOOR





16:30-17:25

Global strategies to drive local growth: building new links between education and trade >

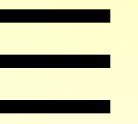
Professor Sir Steve Smith, UK Government
International Education Champion (pre-recorded)

FOLLOWED BY:

 Chair: Steffan Davies, Chief Executive Officer,
AD Education UK, and IHE Board Member

- **Rupert Daniels**, Director for Creative, Consumer, Sport and Education, Department for Business and Trade
- **Jane Rexworthy**, Chair, UK Skills Partnership, and Executive Director, People 1st International
- **Lara Carmona**, Director of Policy and Engagement, Creative UK
- **Joy Elliott-Bowman**, Director of Policy and Development, Independent Higher Education

 TELFORD THEATRE - FIRST FLOOR



17:25-17:30

Closing remarks

James Pitman, Chair of the Board,
Independent Higher Education

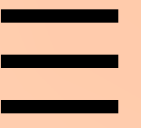
📍 TELFORD THEATRE – FIRST FLOOR

17:30-20:00

Drinks reception

IHE Awards 2024

📍 GREAT HALL – FIRST FLOOR



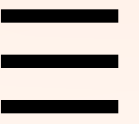
SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Plenary sessions



Breakout sessions





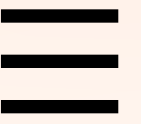
Plenary sessions

Ministerial speech: Rt Hon Baroness Jacqui Smith, Minister for Skills

 **10:15–10:30**  **TELFORD THEATRE – FIRST FLOOR**

The new Labour Government has made no secret of its belief in the importance of skills in driving the economic growth that is at the heart of its agenda for the country. The appointment of a political heavyweight to oversee the higher and further education sectors in the form of Jacqui Smith confirms the significance assigned to their Manifesto commitment to a new post-16 skills strategy, as does her title as the Minister for Skills. A former Home Secretary, now the Right Honourable Baroness Smith of Malvern, Jacqui will give her first speech to an IHE event this morning, recognising the contribution that independent higher education providers can make to the Government's missions of creating national and regional growth and of expanding opportunities for lifelong learning.

 **View session in Agenda >**

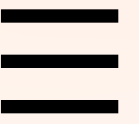


The skills solution: a strategy for people, place and productivity

 10:30-11:30  TELFORD THEATRE – FIRST FLOOR

The new Government has set out its vision for a modern industrial strategy to harness the growth of high-potential sectors to drive a decade of economic renewal. The road to this promised renewal begins with a more strategic approach to education and skills. The new guiding mind of Skills England will assess national priorities as well as local opportunities, working with regional leaders, business, and the Migration Advisory Committee to respond with agility and coherence to emerging labour market needs. Our panel of experts will speak from key vantage points in the new landscape on how a more coherent skills strategy might unlock growth in the economy across the regions and nations.

 [View session in Agenda >](#)

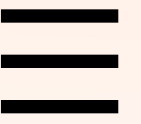


Fit for an uncertain future: reimagining regulation

 12:00–13:00  TELFORD THEATRE – FIRST FLOOR

The appointment of Sir David Behan as interim Chair of the Office for Students (OfS) was a clear statement of support from the new Government for the recommendations made in the public bodies review that he led. But these ‘back to basics’ proposals focused on financial sustainability may obscure greater challenges that still lie ahead. Across the UK, emerging strategies to bridge the skills gap through local, regional and national reforms have created new regulators and posed new questions for education sector leaders. The role of employers may gain new prominence as funding streams start to flow through industry and as students under pressure look for careers which can offset the increasing costs of their education. How can regulation adapt to and support new models of delivery, involving more funders and actors than ever before? How might planned changes like the Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE) and unplanned changes like AI drive behaviour in an emerging tertiary system? Our panel will consider the role of regulation in times of financial pressure and transformation and seek solutions from models across the UK and beyond.

 [View session in Agenda >](#)

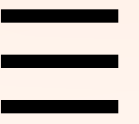


Global strategies to drive local growth: building new links between education and trade

🕒 16:30-17:25 📍 TELFORD THEATRE - FIRST FLOOR

The Government is considering a refreshed International Education Strategy, which will sit alongside a new Industrial Strategy and a cross-departmental Mission for Growth. What are the opportunities for education and training to work in partnership with other growth-driving sectors such as the creative industries to make the UK a one-stop-shop for global talent and innovation? How can local leaders, providers and policy makers strengthen the link between domestic priorities and international markets by meeting the global demand for education and skills? Our expert speakers from education, Government and industry will chart the way forward.

 View session in Agenda >



Breakout sessions

BREAKOUT SESSION 1

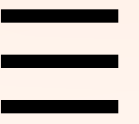
 14:00-14:50

1A What do we need to consider when student data is driving our analytics and AI strategy?

 **TELFORD THEATRE – FIRST FLOOR**

Our sector is turning collectively towards the opportunities afforded by analytics and AI as solutions to our challenges. Utilising your student data can give insights into areas such as engagement and wellbeing, and using these emerging digital tools should save resource while improving the student experience. Our panel will give examples of how this is already being done, and what tools are available for those who are considering their options. Particular consideration will be given to ethics and governance. What capabilities do our staff and leaders need when harnessing student data in this way?

 **View session in Agenda >**



1B Student of 2030

COUNCIL ROOM – GROUND FLOOR

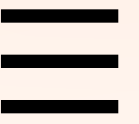
As we reach 2030, we are told to expect record numbers of students entering higher education. This session will consider what that might look like, for students and for the professionals preparing to help them succeed on their journeys through study. What will the student experience, and expectations, look like in 2030? Will the relationship between students and their provider change, and what do providers need to consider now to prepare for this?

 [View session in Agenda >](#)

1C Graduates for growth

PALMER ROOM – LOWER GROUND FLOOR

The Government has placed employers and business at the front of their growth strategy, with skills and education underpinning this. There is potential for IHE members to be central to this mission: one of our distinctive strengths is close collaboration with industry. These partnerships create graduates who are both ready for employment and ready to be entrepreneurs, with the skills to support companies to grow and to develop the new businesses that industry



and the economy needs. Changes in funding – from the Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE) to the growth and skills levy – could either help realise this potential or create barriers for employers, providers and students. Our panel will consider the opportunities and challenges, and share perspectives on how we can create an environment where education supports skills for employment and entrepreneurship to deliver the growth Government needs.

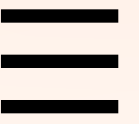
 [View session in Agenda >](#)

1D Creating our future leaders

 **RENNIE ROOM – LOWER GROUND FLOOR**

IHE members are staffed by innovative, driven and practical teams who are committed to their students and industries. Many are at the foundational stage of creating their people, culture and research strategies as they move towards degree awarding powers; they are perfectly poised to embed visible leadership approaches which will reflect their organisational ethos. This session will offer insights into how to take advantage of existing talent to build high performing leadership across a provider, with a commitment to EDI principles and ongoing learning and development.

 [View session in Agenda >](#)



BREAKOUT SESSION 2

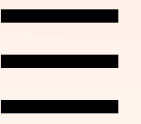
🕒 15:30-16:20

2A Building financially sustainable HE through innovation

📍 TELFORD THEATRE - FIRST FLOOR

The financial challenges facing the higher education sector mean that doing things the way we always have done may no longer be an option. Innovation and change are two solutions to securing a sustainable future. In this session, our panel will consider the possibilities for change and the implications for students, providers and the industries who need our graduates. What does innovation look like in a climate of increased financial pressure? How can institutions be proactive to secure long-term sustainability, and growth? What will the risks be and how can these be managed? What support do institutions need? Our panel will reflect on these questions, and more.

 View session in Agenda >



2B Student visas: reflections and next steps

COUNCIL ROOM – GROUND FLOOR

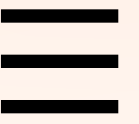
How should the sector respond to changes in international student recruitment and visas? Staff from UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) will share their lessons from the 2024 recruitment cycles and look ahead to plans for 2025. Our expert partners Eversheds Sutherland will reflect on what providers can do to support a low risk 2025 recruitment cycle. Anne-Marie Graham, Chief Executive of the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA), will chair our session and take questions from members.

 [View session in Agenda >](#)

2C Equality of opportunity for the student of 2025

PALMER ROOM – LOWER GROUND FLOOR

Current strategies for social mobility aren't working. We hear from the media that students increasingly want to earn while they learn, reverse the brain drain to urban centres, and study in more flexible ways. Our panel will explore how we can reach underrepresented groups by meeting their needs



rather than expecting them to adapt to a traditional model of higher education. Skills education, Level 4 and 5 provision, apprenticeships and the Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE) all have a potential role to play in shaping this change. Our panel will consider the opportunities and barriers in each of these models and discuss how we can deliver higher education that meets the needs of all students in 2025, and beyond.

 [View session in Agenda >](#)

2D Governing in the student interest

 **RENNIE ROOM - LOWER GROUND FLOOR**

What does it look like to govern in the student interest? How can governing bodies keep focus in times of turbulence or change? With pressures from regulators, partners, Government and funders, what role does governance play in keeping the focus on core missions, visions and values?

 [View session in Agenda >](#)



IHE CONSULTANCY

At IHE, we understand independent providers and how to support them to advance institutional goals and thrive in the UK's regulatory environment. Our bespoke consultancy service supports members and Launchpad subscribers through confidential, competitively priced, project-based assistance.

Our expert advisers can help providers achieve:

Office for Students (OfS) registration for access to student loans and grant funding in England

Degree Awarding Powers

UKVI licence for sponsoring international students

Teaching Excellence Framework rating

Ofqual awarding organisation recognition

**Positive regulatory quality assessments,
for example QAA, Ofsted, ISI**

Partnerships

Successful grant bids

**Institutional enhancement, including academic
and corporate governance, commercial strategy,
financial management, student engagement,
and welfare**

IHE's Consultancy Network supports provider advancement through in-depth specialist knowledge of the independent higher education sector. Our trusted consultants have wide-ranging expertise and a successful track record in their areas of specialism.

IHE plays a pivotal role in scoping projects, identifying the best fit consultant or advisory team, handling the contracts, and overseeing project delivery. Consultants also receive support from IHE's policy experts.

**To find out more about IHE
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desk. Alternatively, contact
jane@ihe.ac.uk for further details
or to arrange a meeting.**

IHE



SPEAKER PROFILES

A-F

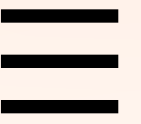


G-M



N-Z





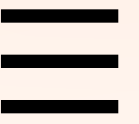
Christie Jay Beauchamp



**Registrar,
pointblank Music School**

Christie Jay Beauchamp is Registrar at pointblank Music School and has worked in creative education for over 15 years, from peripatetic music teaching to higher education. She led on pointblank's recent TEF submission (obtaining Gold) and is leading their application for Degree Awarding Powers. She is Co-Chair of the IHE Quality Network, and sits on the Board of Trustees at the London School of Mosaic. She is passionate about small, specialist creative industries education and is currently undertaking doctoral research at UCL.

 **Connect** >



Professor Nic Beech

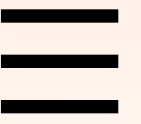


Chair, Quality Council for UK Higher Education, and Vice-Chancellor, University of Salford

Professor Nic Beech is Vice-Chancellor of the University of Salford and was previously Vice-Principal at the University of St Andrews, Provost of Dundee University and Vice-Chancellor of Middlesex University. He is Chair of the Quality Council for UK Higher Education and Treasurer and on the Board of Universities UK. He was previously Treasurer and on the Board of the Academy of Social Sciences and Chair of Access HE. Nic is currently a member of the Secretary of State's Curriculum and Assessment Review panel for England. Nic's academic field is business and management and his research focused on identity, change and educational leadership. His awards from Learned Societies include, at a national level, the Lifetime Achievement in Research Award and at an international level, the Exceptional Service to the Field of Management Worldwide Award. He was the longest-serving President of the British Academy of Management.

 [Connect >](#)

 [@NicBeech1 >](#)



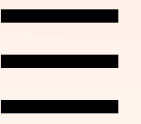
Jules Brookes



**Head of Provider,
pointblank Music School**

Jules Brookes has been Managing Director at pointblank Music School for over 20 years and oversaw the School's evolution from FE into HE, registering with OfS, entering Approved (fee cap) and attaining TEF Gold, gaining the 'Best Independent HE' award from Whatuni, and more. He is an active musician with a US Billboard No.1 hit, has released records with Peter Gabriel, Donald Fagen and Kanye West, and is passionate about music education and mentoring the next generation of music makers and educational leaders.

 **Connect >**



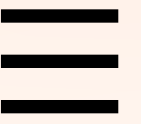
Lara Carmona



**Director of Policy and Engagement,
Creative UK**

Lara Carmona works as Director of Policy and Engagement at Creative UK, which is an investor, connector, supporter and champion of creative businesses working to generate the right conditions for a thriving creative economy. Creative UK represents hundreds of members that incorporate thousands of individuals from 22 sub-sectors across the cultural and creative industries, including createch, broadcasting, TV and film, advertising, marketing and PR, music and performing arts, fashion, videogames, and architecture and design.

 **Connect >**

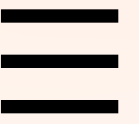


Colin Castelino



**Honorary Treasurer, IHE Board,
and Chair of the IHE Finance and
Resources Committee**

Colin was Finance Director at Le Cordon Bleu from 2015 to earlier this year, responsible for financial oversight of the school, as well as admissions and strategic relationships with partner institutions. Having graduated from LSE, he qualified as a Chartered accountant with Deloitte and has over 20 years' experience as a finance director. Colin is Chair of the IHE Finance and Resources Committee.



Naomi Clayton

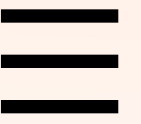


**Director of Policy and Research,
Learning and Work Institute (L&W)**

Naomi Clayton has more than 19 years' experience in policy and research with specialisms in employment, skills and labour market disadvantage issues. Naomi leads a team who research what works, influence policy and develop new ideas to improve practice in the areas of lifelong learning, essential skills, employment and better work. Prior to joining L&W, Naomi was Deputy Director at the What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth, and Policy and Research Manager at Centre for Cities where she was responsible for developing and overseeing programmes to support evidence-led policy and practice, working with local and national partners across the UK.

 **Connect >**

 **@NaomiClaytonUK >**



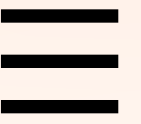
Kelly Coate



Provost, Richmond American University London

Prior to joining Richmond in 2023, Kelly was PVC Education and Students at the University of Sussex for five years. She has previously worked at King's College London and the Institute of Education at UCL. She has published extensively on higher education, particularly in relation to gender and academic careers, leadership, international students and the higher education curriculum.

 **Connect** >

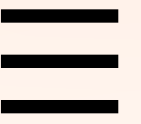


James Coe



**Senior Partner and Director,
Counterculture**

James is an expert in public policy and higher education with a strong background in business and strategy development. He was Head of Sustainability, Policy, and Civic Engagement at the University of Liverpool, leading sustainability strategy and civic engagement. He has worked with clients on business development, strategy, and stakeholder engagement. At NUS, he led governance reform and published a book on universities. He holds a Master's of Public Administration, focusing on public sector resilience post-Covid. James specialises in civic projects, policy development, and place-based analysis, and is an Associate Editor for Research and Innovation at Wonkhe.



Lewis Cooper

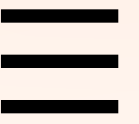


Director of Public Affairs and Campaigns, Association of Colleges

Lewis is Director of Public Affairs and Campaigns at the Association of Colleges, the membership body for colleges in England, and Director of The College Alliance, a network which brings together college leaders and senior government officials from across the UK and Ireland. Prior to this, Lewis was Director of the Independent Commission on the College of the Future, a UK-wide review which set out a vision for the role colleges can play for people, productivity and place, with a series of nation-specific and thematic reports. Lewis worked previously for a decade in a number of different roles at NUS, and at two Westminster-based think tanks.

 [Connect >](#)

 [l_jcooper >](#)



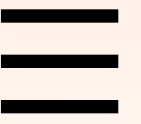
Charlotte Corrish



**Head of Public Policy,
Office of the Independent
Adjudicator for Higher Education (OIA)**

Charlotte Corrish is Head of Public Policy at the OIA leading and developing the organisation's policy activity in the higher education sector within England and Wales. She liaises with key stakeholders and regulatory partners, including the Office for Students (OfS), to ensure the OIA is understanding the impact of wider policy on the sector, and to ensure the OIA's role is understood. Charlotte leads on the OIA interface with the new OfS complaints scheme. She has been part of sector taskforces dealing with closures and market exits and has a keen interest in the evolution of sector policy in this area.

 **Connect >**



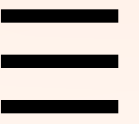
Dr Mandy Crawford-Lee



**Chief Executive, University
Vocational Awards Council (UVAC)**

Dr Mandy Crawford-Lee is a respected resource in higher-level apprenticeship development and delivery. She led national policy, managed the Coalition Government's Higher Apprenticeship Fund, and revised the Specification of Apprenticeship Standard in England (SASE), opening pathways beyond Level 3 into professional, senior technical, and managerial occupations. Mandy has worked extensively with Government departments, further education providers, higher education institutions, awarding bodies, and employers, specialising in skills policy, strategic projects, and advocacy. Since joining the University Vocational Awards Council (UVAC) in 2012, Mandy became Director of Policy and Operations in 2017 and, in October 2021, its first female Chief Executive. UVAC, on behalf of its 85 university members, is regarded as the authoritative voice on higher and degree apprenticeships in England.

 **Connect >**



Mary Curnock Cook CBE




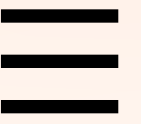
Chair, Dyson Institute of Engineering and Technology

Mary Curnock Cook CBE is an independent education expert serving in non-executive roles on several Boards. From 2010–2017, she was Chief Executive of UCAS.

As a non-executive director with Pearson Education, Mary chairs its Qualifications Committee and the governing body of the Dyson Institute of Engineering and Technology. She is also a non-executive director at the Student Room, a Trustee at HEPI, and recently served on the Student Loans Company Board. Additionally, she is Network Chair for Emerge Education.

Mary received an OBE in 2000 and a CBE in 2020 for services to education. She is an honorary Fellow of Birkbeck and Goldsmiths and holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Gloucestershire.

 [@MaryCurnockCook >](#)

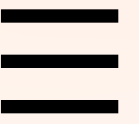


Patrick Curry



Director of Higher Education Oversight, Department for Education (DfE)

Patrick Curry is responsible for DfE policy on the higher education sector. Patrick came to DfE from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, where he was their Strategy Director. Before that, he spent four years as Deputy Director and then Policy Director in No. 10, where he led the civil service Policy Unit. Patrick also spent a number of years working on education policy: as Deputy Director for the Central Capital Unit in DfE, as education adviser in No 10, and in the education spending team in the Treasury.



Rupert Daniels

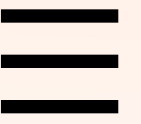


Director for Creative, Consumer, Sport and Education, Department for Business and Trade (DBT)

As Director for Creative, Consumer, Sport and Education, Rupert Daniels helps UK organisations grow globally by developing their export capabilities and attracting inward investment. His portfolio covers diverse sectors including agri-food and drink, digital commerce, creative industries, education, consumer sectors, and sport. He is also the Senior Official responsible for the department's Saudi Arabia taskforce and the Osaka Expo 2025 Business Programme.

Rupert joined the Civil Service over four years ago from Cambridge University Press, where he spent seven years building their worldwide digital brand as the Global Marketing Board Director, having previously held senior sponsorship roles at Arsenal and FIFA.

 [Connect >](#)

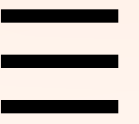


Steffan Davies



**Chief Executive Officer,
AD Education UK,
and IHE Board Member**

Steffan serves as the Chief Executive Officer for AD Education UK, which includes the Institute of Contemporary Music Performance (ICMP) and SAE Institute (SAE) – both recognised for their position as two of the largest independent providers of creative media education. Steffan brings a wealth of strategic, regulatory and operational experience from previous roles across a range of global education institutions in the UK, Europe, Australia and the US.

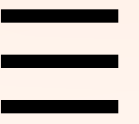


Professor Phil Deans



**President and Vice Chancellor,
Richmond American University
London, and Vice Chair of the IHE Board**

Professor Phil Deans has been President and Vice Chancellor of Richmond American University London since 2020 and, before that, was Provost for eight years. He led the successful TDAPs application and registration with the Office for Students (OfS) and oversaw the creation of Richmond's unique dual degree award. Phil has worked and studied in China and Japan as well as the UK. He has dedicated his career to furthering international education opportunities and promoting diversity and international perspectives on learning, teaching and curriculum development and content. Phil is co-chair of IHE's International Education Forum.



Matt Dowling

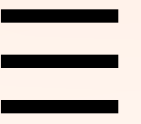


Founder, Freelancer Club

Matt Dowling is a renowned entrepreneur, speaker, and advocate for the freelance sector. As the founder of Freelancer Club, Matt has built an award-winning community platform that supports freelancers with resources, skill development, and job opportunities. They also run programmes at over 30 UK universities, helping aspiring freelancers launch their careers and positively influencing freelance culture across multiple stakeholders.

Matt is a recognised thought leader, frequently featured in The Guardian, The Times, and The Financial Times, and has appeared on the BBC, LBC, and RTE. Considered the leading voice in the creative self-employed sector, Matt's work continues to shape conversations around the future of freelancing and the evolving culture of work.

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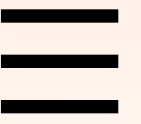
Maria Dunbar

**Director of Education,
Leiths Education**



Maria is a food and nutrition teacher who believes passionately in the power of hands-on practical cookery lessons. Her career developed by enabling schools to find innovative ways to deliver engaging and sustainable food and nutrition lessons. In 2022, she joined Leiths to develop and lead a strategic re-structure to become the only provider of a complete culinary curriculum from Key Stage 1 to 5 in schools, to a bespoke Higher Education Culinary Diploma and a new Teacher Training partnership with the University of Roehampton. Maria is a creative strategist with a can-do attitude and an eye for detail.

 **Connect >**



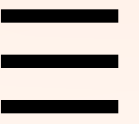
Joy Elliott-Bowman



**Director of Policy and Development,
Independent Higher Education**

Joy leads IHE's policy development and public affairs activity, as well as facilitating good practice across the independent sector. Before joining IHE in July 2015, Joy spent over 10 years working in the British and Canadian education sectors, working from within universities, independent providers, students' unions, and national student and higher education sector organisations.

 **Connect** >



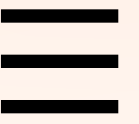
Colin Ferguson



**Executive Director,
Association of Higher Education
Professionals (AHEP)**

Colin Ferguson is the Executive Director of AHEP, where he has overseen transformative organisational growth, redefining strategy, identity, and future direction for a leading association in higher education. With over 12 years of experience in public and charity sectors, Colin has a strong track record of empowering staff to step into leadership. His work in leadership development, board engagement, operational strategy, and mentorship of start-up founders equips him with insights into fostering talent in smaller institutions. Passionate about creating pathways for professional growth, Colin has introduced the AHEP institutional partnership model to support sustainable people development.

 **Connect >**



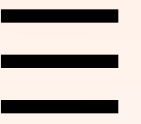
Professor Will Foster



**Senior Consultant Leadership,
Organisational Development and
Research, Advance HE**

Professor Will Foster brings a wealth of strategic senior leadership and consultancy experience in higher education, as well as the commercial and not-for-profit sectors. Previously Dean and Provost at the University of Wolverhampton and then Professor of Leadership and Director of MBA and Executive Education at Keele University, Will has a rich and deep expertise in leadership, leadership development, organisational culture, strategy and change and has extensive experience of executive coaching and group facilitation. His monograph was published by Brill in February 2024, and he is co-leading the development and consultation on a Higher Education Leadership framework for Advance HE.

 **Connect >**



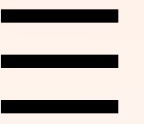
Josh Freeman



**Policy Manager, Higher Education
Policy Institute (HEPI)**

Josh Freeman's work has included research on the minimum income standard for students, artificial intelligence, foundation year courses, and student debating unions. Alongside this policy work, Josh is responsible for managing the HEPI blog. He previously worked as a maths and politics teacher in London on the Teach First programme and has since completed a master's degree in Global Governance and Diplomacy at the University of Oxford.

 **Connect >**



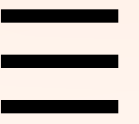
Professor Dr Thorsten Fröhlich



**SME IT and Technology Programs,
LIBF**

Professor Dr Thorsten Fröhlich is an accomplished scientist and entrepreneur who earned his PhD in Physical Chemistry from the University of Cologne in 1992. Since 1987, he has been a successful entrepreneur focusing on software development and IT management for the global life science industry. As a business angel, he supports university spin-offs and is the supervisory board chairman of LUMITOS AG. His academic career includes guest lecturing at diverse institutions and having an IT Management and Big Data professorship at IU University of Applied Sciences. Since 2023, he has contributed to LIBF's SME IT and technology programs.

 **Connect >**



Anne-Marie Graham




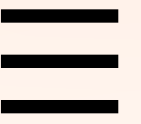
Chief Executive, UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA)

Anne-Marie Graham joined UKCISA in 2019 from the Association of Commonwealth Universities, where she was Director of Chevening. Prior to that, Anne-Marie led on a range of educational and international mobility projects. At Universities UK International, she developed the first Government-funded UK Strategy for Outward Mobility and established the Go International programme.

Anne-Marie is a linguist, with a degree in modern languages from Anglia Ruskin University and postgraduate translation from the University of Westminster. Before moving into the education sector, she spent several years in the language services industry. She continues to support professional standards in the language professions as a member of the Qualifications and Standards Committee of the National Register of Public Service Interpreters.

 [Connect >](#)

 [@A_M_Graham >](#)

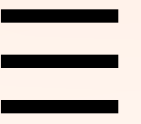


Dr Chris Hayne



IHE Consultant, Non-Executive Director, and Head of Widening Participation, pointblank Music School

Dr Chris Hayne has held senior management positions at various higher education institutions over the last 30 years, leading on portfolio development, academic partnerships, governance, and widening participation strategy, with a particular interest in Level 4/5, foundation year and accelerated programmes, blended/distance learning, and degree apprenticeships. Since 2020, he has focused on providing consultancy support to a diverse range of higher education institutions and is a non-executive director on a number of higher education institution governing boards.



Sarah Howard

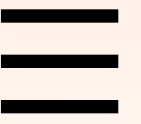


Chair, British Chambers of Commerce

Sarah Howard became Chair of the British Chambers of Commerce in 2019. A former President of Suffolk Chamber, and a London Chamber Board Member, Sarah is a great advocate for the power of business for good. With a background in management consultancy, Sarah has worked for high profile organisations JP Morgan and KPMG.

With a particular interest in skills development and bringing more diversity into the boardroom, Sarah works closely with Neurodiversity in Business. In 2015, she was awarded the MBE for skills development for young people.

Sarah is the Chair of Abbeycroft Leisure, and a Governor of the Eastern Education Group.

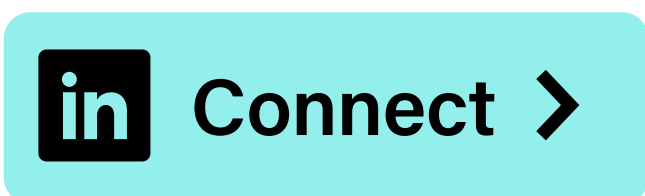


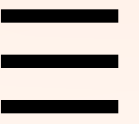
Jake Howarth



Student, Dyson Institute of Engineering and Technology, and Vice Chair of the IHE Student Advisory Board

Jake Howarth is a fourth year Undergraduate Engineer at the Dyson Institute of Engineering and Technology, studying for a bachelor's degree in engineering. In his day-to-day work he is part of a research team in Dyson developing new battery technologies. Jake serves as Vice Chair for the IHE Student Advisory Board and is currently a council member for UCAS representing apprentices.





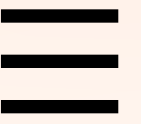
Professor Sir Chris Husbands



Director, Higher Futures

Professor Sir Chris Husbands led Sheffield Hallam University, one of the UK's largest universities, for eight years. Before that, he led the Institute of Education, University of London, a world-leading specialist institution rated first in the world. He has more than 20 years of board-level experience, leading national initiatives to drive system-wide improvement. Chris chaired the Teaching Excellence Framework, the Higher Education Statistics Agency, and serves on a range of advisory and executive boards. He has lectured and consulted in four continents. Chris is now a Director of Higher Futures, a specialist consultancy supporting strategic change and development in higher education.

 [Connect >](#)

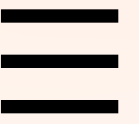


Professor Ewart Keep



**Emeritus Professor of Education,
Training and Skills at the Department
of Education, University of Oxford**

Emeritus Professor of Education, Training and Skills at the Department of Education, Oxford University, and previously the director of the research centre on Skills, Knowledge and Organisational Performance (SKOPE), Professor Ewart Keep's research has focused on various aspects of the links between skills and economic and social performance. He is currently a board member of City of Glasgow College, and the Scottish Funding Council, and has advised parliamentary committees at Westminster and Holyrood, DBIS, HMT, NAO, the state governments of New South Wales and Queensland, and the OECD. He was a member of the Department for Education's Skills and Productivity Board.



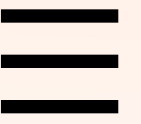
Jess Lister



**Associate Director (Education),
Public First**

Jess Lister is an Associate Director at policy and strategy consultancy Public First, focusing primarily on education policy both nationally and internationally. Since joining the education practice at Public First in 2021, she has worked with some of the biggest names in the education sector and established a reputation for creating public affairs strategies that combine sharp policy analysis, political awareness, and public opinion.

 **Connect >**



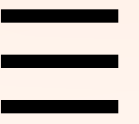
Marion Lowe



**Chief Operating Officer,
S P Jain London School of
Management, and IHE Board Member**

Marion Lowe is the Chief Operating Officer for the S P Jain London School of Management, the London branch of the S P Jain Global group, which aims to provide transformative global education opportunities for its students. In her role, Marion has worked with colleagues to gain new degree awarding powers as well as operationalise the School's vision. She has worked in a number of universities in a variety of roles including University Secretary, Registrar and as project manager for a merger.

 **Connect >**



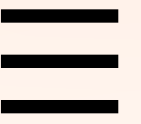
Esyllt Martin



**Senior Associate
(Employment & Global Mobility),
Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP**

Esyllt Martin is a Senior Associate specialising in immigration and employment law at Eversheds Sutherland. She has almost a decade of experience in advising education sector clients in relation to their compliance with the Immigration Rules from a Sponsored Student, Skilled Worker, Temporary Worker and Right to Study/Work perspective. Based in London, she has a particular focus on advising independent providers of higher education.

 **Connect >**




Dr Debbie McVitty

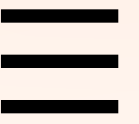


Editor, Wonkhe

As editor, Dr Debbie McVitty is responsible for Wonkhe's commentary and analysis on higher education across their website, email briefings, podcast and events. Debbie is interested in the social impact of higher education; learning, teaching and curriculum; institutional change and innovation; and in bringing to light diverse and underrepresented voices in the higher education policy debate.

 **Connect** >

 **@debbie_mcvitty** >



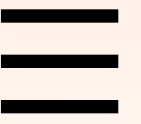
Jack Medlin



PhD candidate in Higher Education Policy, Keele University

Jack is a PhD candidate at Keele University, researching how administrative data can predict graduate outcomes. Formerly a sabbatical officer, Jack has worked nationally with the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), Advance HE, Universities UK, and was a member of the Office for Students (OfS) TEF Panel. In his role as Associate Consultant with Coole Insight, Jack provides policy support across the sector.

 **Connect >**



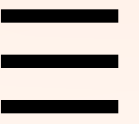
Julie Mercer



Principal and Nous UK Office Lead

Julie Mercer leads Nous' UK practice, leveraging over 30 years of experience advising public and private sector organisations on strategic matters and future growth. She collaborates with senior leadership teams, using data, experience, and facilitation skills to explore strategic choices and potential futures. A qualified accountant, Julie previously spent ten years with the National Audit Office focusing on value for money initiatives across Government. For the past 20 years, she has worked with universities, private providers, and higher education sector businesses to navigate changes in regulation, geopolitics, and funding. Passionate about education's transformative role, Julie is also a trustee at PTI and serves on the advisory board of the Institute of Coding.

 [Connect >](#)



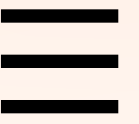
Guy Michelmore



**Founder and CEO,
Thinkspace Education**

Guy Michelmore is the founder and CEO of Thinkspace Education, an online school delivering postgraduate degrees in music and sound design for film, games and television. Thinkspace started delivering MA and MFA degrees ten years ago and now has 300 students in 25 countries. Thinkspace is registered with Office for Students (OfS) in the Approved (fee cap) category. Guy is also an award-winning composer, scoring features films and television for companies including Marvel, Disney and Netflix.

 **Connect >**



Dr Michelle Morgan



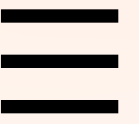
**Dean of Students,
University of East London**

Dr Michelle Morgan is a nationally and internationally recognised student experience transitions specialist across all levels of study and is extensively published in the area. She is currently Dean of Students at the University of East London. Michelle is a Principal Fellow of the HEA, Fellow of the AUA, an elected council member of UKCGE, and Student Minds Mental Health Charter Assessor.

During her varied career, Michelle has been a faculty manager, lecturer, researcher, and academic manager. Michelle has over 50 publications and has presented over 100 national and international conference papers (including 52 keynotes and 30 invited papers). She has developed a free portal for staff providing information and links for anyone interested in improving the student experience in higher education.

 **Connect >**

 **@it_se >**



Rachel Nicholson

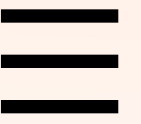


**Head of Institution,
Academy of Live Technology,
and IHE Board Member**

Rachel Nicholson has been Head of Institution at the Academy of Live Technology since 2018. Based on Production Park, near Wakefield in West Yorkshire, the Academy specialises in vocational subjects relating to the live events industry.

After gaining a degree in lighting design, Rachel was awarded a postgraduate studentship to study an MA in Theatre Practice where she specialised in lighting and digital scenography. Rachel subsequently pursued a successful freelance career as a lighting designer and technologist, before returning to the education sector permanently in 2006. Rachel is currently a member of the Creative Industries Council, Education and Skills Working Group, and the HEFCW Quality Assurance Committee.

 **Connect >**



Brian Pepin

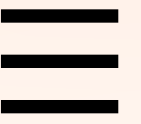


Principal Policy Adviser, UCAS

Brian Pepin is a Principal Policy Adviser at UCAS. In this role, he is responsible for growing the charity's reputation as a source of policy expertise on progression to higher education. He has worked in the higher education sector in both Canada and the UK for a decade, having previously held member relations, public affairs and policy roles at Universities Canada, University Alliance, and the British Academy.

Brian holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Ottawa and a Master of Public Administration degree from Queen's University at Kingston (Canada).

 [Connect >](#)



Philippa Pickford

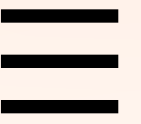


**Director of Regulation,
Office for Students (OfS)**

Philippa Pickford is Director of Regulation at the Office for Students (OfS). She leads on the OfS's approach to regulation, including the development, implementation and continuous improvement of regulatory decisions, interventions and enforcement.

Previously, Philippa held various senior positions at Ofgem. She led a team of over 600 people responsible for allocating £9bn of funds aimed at low carbon and customer outcomes. Her previous responsibilities include ensuring good outcomes for customers during the pandemic, strengthening the financial resilience of suppliers, and ensuring customers were protected when suppliers exited the market.

 **Connect >**

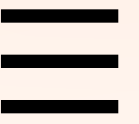


James Pitman



**Managing Director,
Higher Education UK and Europe,
Study Group, and Chair of the Board,
Independent Higher Education**

James Pitman is Study Group's Managing Director, Higher Education UK & Europe, having joined the business in 2007. He has held a variety of senior international roles in the music industry and education publishing. James is a member of the British Council's HE Sector Group, a founding member of Destination for Education, and founding advisor to the APPG for International Students.



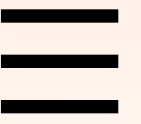
Nuala Polo



**AI Assurance Lead,
Department for Science,
Innovation and Technology (DSIT)**

Nuala Polo is the AI Assurance Lead at the Responsible Technology Adoption Unit (RTA), a directorate within the UK Government's Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) that works on enabling responsible innovation in AI and data driven technologies. Nuala's work focuses on engaging with industry and regulators to drive the uptake of tools for trustworthy AI to operationalise and implement high-level policy principles in practice.

 **Connect >**



Alex Proudfoot

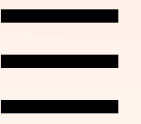


**Chief Executive,
Independent Higher Education**

Alex oversees IHE's strategic development, manages its day-to-day activities, and represents members at external meetings and committees. He was also a Trustee of UKCISA, the UK Council for International Student Affairs, for 10 years. Alex worked previously in IT before five years as communications manager for the British Accreditation Council for Independent Further and Higher Education. He holds a Bachelor's in Music and a Master's in Philosophy.

 **Connect** >

 **@AlexProudfootUK** >

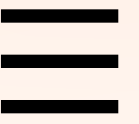


Josh Rainsford



**Assistant Director for Study Services,
UK Visas and Immigration, Home Office**

Having graduated in French and Mandarin, Josh has been with UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) since 2016. Initially in China, he returned to the UK, where he took on a variety of decision-making and casework management roles, including leading the visa response to the war in Ukraine. Josh is currently the Operations Lead for Study Services within UKVI, responsible for the day-to-day running of all student permission casework from outside and in the UK, including the Graduate route, as well as student permission cancellations. He also maintains responsibility for maintenance of the Register of Student Sponsors across casework and compliance functions.



Allan Rankin

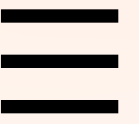


**Founder and Managing Director,
Target3D**

Allan Rankin is founder and Managing Director of Target3D, a new emerging technology company focusing on 3D technologies. He built the Target3D team to offer cutting edge solutions from a range of manufacturers who collaborate across numerous industries, including the automotive, robotics, serious gaming and creative sectors.

Target3D specialise in utilising innovative technologies in virtual reality, training and simulation, hologram creation, serious gaming, animation & VFX and haptic feedback.

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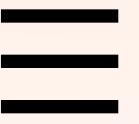
Dr Kieran Reeves



**Director of Motorsport,
National Motorsport Academy (NMA)**

Kieran Reeves has over 23 years of experience in higher education, specialising in lecturing, senior management, and course validation, including pioneering online degrees in Motorsport. He holds a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from Lancaster University, focusing on energy management of hybrid race vehicles. With 30 years in the motorsport and automotive industry, Kieran has worked as a Chief Engineer, competing in various motorsport disciplines, and contributing to engine R&D. He is currently the Director of Motorsport at the NMA and Team Manager for the NMA's race team, while continuing to offer consultancy to race teams, automotive/motorsport companies, and education establishments.

 **Connect >**



Jane Rexworthy

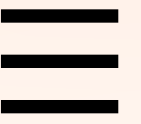


**Chair, UK Skills Partnership,
and Executive Director, People 1st
International**

Jane Rexworthy is a Chartered Fellow of the CIPD and a Fellow of the Institute of Leadership and Management. She is a senior leader specialising in gender, social, and economic inclusion, as well as strategic business development. With extensive expertise in skills policy, solutions and services, Jane has a proven track record in technical and vocational education both in the UK and internationally. Her work spans over 50 countries, where she leads initiatives aimed at driving sustainable, inclusive growth and development. Jane is highly regarded for her leadership in shaping policies and creating innovative solutions that address global education and workforce challenges.

 [Connect >](#)

 [@p1stgroup >](#)



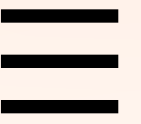
Sean Ruane



**Founder and Chief Executive
Officer, Mind Data**

Sean Ruane is the founder and CEO of Mind Data, a pioneering platform that leverages technology to enhance mental health support. Inspired by his own experience with suicidal depression in 2015, Sean's mission is to improve the mental health of one million people globally. With a background in mental health advocacy and tech innovation, Sean is passionate about using real-time data to empower individuals and organisations in creating more proactive, personalised mental health care. He's currently leading Mind Data through exciting collaborations with UK-leading charities and organisations in education, rehabilitation, and beyond.

 **Connect >**



Rt Hon Baroness Jacqui Smith




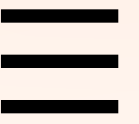
**Minister of State (Minister for Skills),
Department for Education**

The Right Honourable Baroness Smith of Malvern is Minister of State for Skills and the Government's spokesperson for Equalities.

Previously the Labour MP for Redditch from 1997–2010, she has held Ministerial roles in the Department for Education, the Department of Health, and the Department of Trade and Industry. From 2007 to 2009, she served as Home Secretary under Gordon Brown – the first woman to hold the position.

 **Connect** >

 **@jacqui_smith1** >



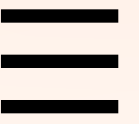
Professor Sir Steve Smith



UK Government International Education Champion

Professor Sir Steve Smith is the UK Government's International Education Champion. In his role, Sir Steve supports the Government's international education work, including engaging with governments around the world and promoting UK excellence and partnerships in all education sub-sectors. In November 2020 he was also appointed as the Prime Minister's Special Representative to Saudi Arabia for Education. Sir Steve was President of Universities UK from 2009–2011, Chair of the UCAS Board from 2013–2019, Board member of the Russell Group (2012–2020), Chair of UUK's International Policy Network and International Strategic Advisory Board (2015–2020), and Member of the UUK Board (2006–2020). He is currently a Fulbright Commissioner, a Non-Executive Director of Unite Students, Chair of the Liveable Exeter Place Board, and a Patron of Exeter College.

Sir Steve holds a BSc, an MSc, and a PhD in International Relations from the University of Southampton and was knighted in the 2011 Queen's Birthday Honours for services to higher education locally and nationally.



Vivienne Stern



**Chief Executive,
Universities UK (UUK)**

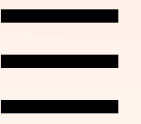
Vivienne Stern became UUK Chief Executive in September 2022 having previously been Director of Universities UK International (UUKi).

She has over 20 years' experience of working in higher education policy and politics at an international level. She is a member of the GREAT Private Sector Council, Trustee of the Council for At Risk Academics, and a member of the Board of Trade. She was awarded an MBE for Services to International Education in 2022.

In 2021, Vivienne received the European Association of International Educators' Vision and Leadership award, and the PIEoneer Outstanding Contribution to the Industry award.

Vivienne graduated from the University of Cambridge.

 [@viviennestern >](#)



Rob Summers



**Research Programmes Manager,
TASO**

Before joining TASO, Rob Summers worked in the student outreach team at Aston University managing a randomised controlled trial of two post-16 widening participation programmes as part of the TASO Multi-intervention, Outreach and Mentoring project.

Rob holds a PhD in Visual Perception from the University of Derby. In his recent academic work, he has used psychophysical methods to investigate speech perception and analytical methods to investigate the relationship between student engagement, measures of disadvantage, and academic success.

 **Connect >**

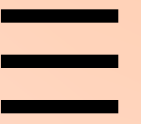
Madeleine Sumption



**Director of the Migration
Observatory, University of Oxford**

Madeleine Sumption is the Director of the Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford, which provides impartial analysis of migration in the UK. She is also a member of the Migration Advisory Committee, which advises the Home Office on migration policy. Her research focuses on the design and impacts of immigration policies, particularly in the UK. Topics of interest include immigration policy and labour market shortages, the social and economic impacts of policies towards work and family migration, and migration statistics. Madeleine has a PhD in Public Policy from the University of Maastricht. In 2017, she received an MBE for services to social science.

 [@M_Sumption >](#)



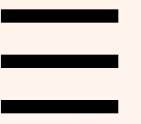
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Gold sponsors



Exhibitors



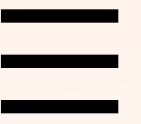


★ **Gold sponsor**

Jisc

Founded for the research and education community, Jisc is a non-profit that has spent 30 years serving and championing the education sector. As the UK's digital, data and technology agency, our services have been designed to serve the needs of education, with tight budgets, sensitive data and a duty of care. Via Jisc, IHE members can now benefit from affordable connectivity and advanced cyber solutions through our Janet Network. We also support providers with digital skills and data maturity, and you can enjoy cost savings via our framework agreements. Additionally, we foster thriving communities, such as our cyber community of over 1,900 members, sharing threat intelligence and insights.



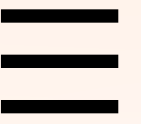


★ **Gold sponsor**

Tribal Group

Tribal Group is a world-leader in student record systems and student data management. Backed by expert consultancy, their systems power universities, colleges, and independent training providers all over the world. With intuitive user experience and mobile-first design, Tribal systems prioritise access and efficiency. Automation and inbuilt data validation ensure data integrity for large and complex datasets, statutory funding returns, and awards, while reducing workload and increasing oversight and effective governance. Tribal Group's mission is to empower the world of education with products and services that underpin student success.

T R I B A L

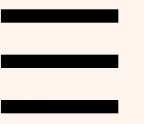


Exhibitors

Stand 1: Falmouth University

Invest in your institution's teaching expertise with a flexible, online PGCHE from one of the UK's leading creative universities. Falmouth University has been re-thinking the shape of higher education for 120 years and delivering high-quality online teaching since 2016, ahead of the post-pandemic trend. Our online PGCHE enables HE colleagues to achieve this internationally recognised qualification alongside their work commitments. Condensed into just two study blocks and utilising our award-winning Virtual Learning Environment, students are supported to gain the confidence, knowledge and pedagogical fluency to respond to the rapidly evolving sector and develop as a creative, competent and committed practitioner in higher education.

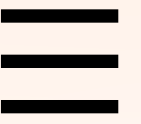
FALMOUTH
UNIVERSITY



Stand 2: Crowe UK

Crowe UK is a national audit, tax, advisory and risk firm with global reach and local expertise. We are an independent member of Crowe Global, one of the top ten accounting networks in the world. With exceptional knowledge of the business environment, our professionals share one commitment, to deliver excellence. At Crowe we are passionate about working with social purpose and non-profit organisations. While our core offering is external audit, we provide many related services such as internal audit, global risk assurance, grant management, structure and governance reviews, tax, VAT, grant audits and other advisory services.



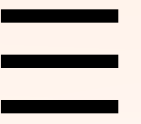


Stand 3: Bevan Brittan

Bevan Brittan is an award-winning, UK top 100 national law firm. We have an exceptional team of specialist Higher Education lawyers, including 14+ partners and 40+ lawyers. Many of our team joined from in-house positions, enabling us to provide well informed, pragmatic legal solutions, while delivering value for money. We work with independent Higher Education Institutions, universities and colleges, providing a full range of legal services, including: education law (including public law, student disciplinary and academic misconduct processes), student welfare and complaints, corporate (including M&A, joint ventures and partnerships), commercial, employment, immigration and pensions, litigation, regulatory, IT and data protection (including AI), procurement and subsidy advice.

Bevan Brittan 

The logo for Bevan Brittan, featuring a lowercase letter 'b' in white inside a green circle.

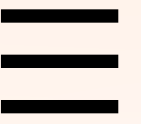


Stand 4: Tribal Group

Tribal Group is a world-leader in student record systems and student data management. Backed by expert consultancy, their systems power universities, colleges, and independent training providers all over the world. With intuitive user experience and mobile-first design, Tribal systems prioritise access and efficiency. Automation and inbuilt data validation ensure data integrity for large and complex datasets, statutory funding returns, and awards, while reducing workload and increasing oversight and effective governance. Tribal Group's mission is to empower the world of education with products and services that underpin student success.

The Tribal logo consists of the word "TRIBAL" in white, uppercase, sans-serif font, centered within a blue rectangular background that has a slight gradient from dark blue on the left to a lighter blue on the right.

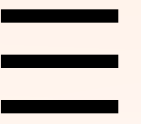
T R I B A L



Stand 5: Jisc

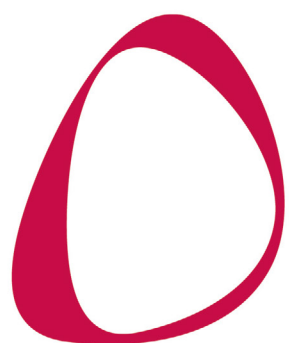
Founded for the research and education community, Jisc is a non-profit that has spent 30 years serving and championing the education sector. As the UK's digital, data and technology agency, our services have been designed to serve the needs of education, with tight budgets, sensitive data and a duty of care. Via Jisc, IHE members can now benefit from affordable connectivity and advanced cyber solutions through our Janet Network. We also support providers with digital skills and data maturity, and you can enjoy cost savings via our framework agreements. Additionally, we foster thriving communities, such as our cyber community of over 1,900 members, sharing threat intelligence and insights.



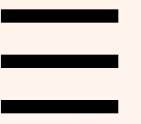


Stand 6: Pinsent Masons

Pinsent Masons is a top ranked adviser, currently working with over 70 higher education clients. We specialise in supporting transformational change, setting up branch campuses, private sector partnering for student accommodation, complex governance and constitutional advice, and digital transformation including IT and procurement. We manage events of reputational crisis, handling potentially damaging incidents to minimise the impact of fraud, sexual violence and student protests. We help clients with joint ventures and collaboration agreements, seeking IP protection or addressing constitutional reform, dealing with regulatory obstacles and secondments – as well as acting for new entrants to the sector.



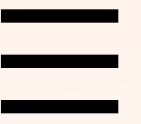
Pinsent Masons



Stand 7: JSS Search

The Higher Education team at JSS Search are highly experienced at supporting a variety of organisations with a social purpose in hiring talent across multiple specialisms. We are passionate about delivering a high quality and personalised service to our clients to reflect their individual needs. Our specialist market know-how spans Finance, Procurement, HR, Change & Transformation, IT, External Relations, Registry, Academic and Student Services. Across these markets, we've sourced permanent and temporary talent for multiple appointments at entry-level, management, senior and executive levels.





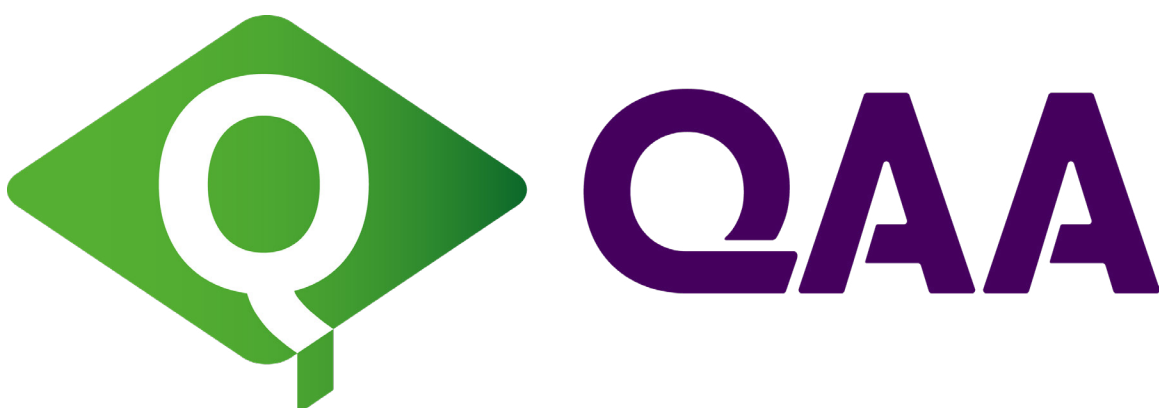
Stand 8: The Harding Hub

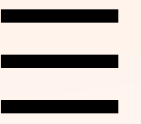
In the ever-evolving landscape of Higher Education, providers are constantly seeking innovative solutions to enhance their operational efficiency and improve their commercial wellbeing. Enter The Harding Hub, an organisation that is dedicated to the integration of business support services such as Finance, HR, Technology, Payroll, Pensions, Workplace Wellbeing, Student Wellbeing and Employee Benefits. The organisations we serve report improved satisfaction, reduced attrition, and better recruitment capability, all as a result of the enhanced proposition delivered by the Harding Hub. Our members work in partnership with our clients to turn their universities, colleges and schools into environments in which their people are happy, healthy and financially secure.



Stand 9: QAA

QAA is a world-leading quality agency. We offer valuable guidance and support about the quality and standards of HE. Flexible and tailored to your individual context, our services draw upon our recognised expertise in quality and standards. Come and talk to us about: Degree Awarding Powers (DAPs) Service – for providers in England who are either seeking Full or New DAPs or have existing time-limited or probationary powers. Targeted Quality and Standards Service – versatile support for specific challenges relating to quality and standards. Elective Quality Review – independent cyclical reviews providing assurance about the standards of your academic offer and the quality of your learning experience.



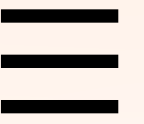


Stand 10: jobs.ac.uk

jobs.ac.uk is the largest specialist job board for Further Education sector and Higher Education in the UK. We help colleges, university and HE providers attract the best talent for their institution. We advertise vacancies from academic, research and professional positions at institutions across the world and engage with a large audience of highly qualified candidates. We receive on average 2 million views a month on our digital platform, providing jobseekers with access to careers support and to search for their next opportunity.



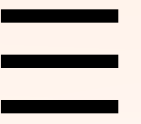
Great jobs for bright people



Stand 11: LeadSquared

Being used by over 1500+ institutions globally LeadSquared is a no-code/low-code centralised student acquisition platform designed to sit on top of your SIS/school management system. For an institution's needs of student engagement (email, call, text, whatsapp), online application, managing recruitment teams, transforming student retention and analysing the best practices of how to enrol students better while automating redundant processes, LeadSquared provides a centralised system for both marketing and CRM needs.

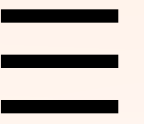




Stand 12: Coole Insight

Coole Insight Ltd is the home of students' union development, driving sector improvement through collaboration, expertise, and insight. We work hard in our pursuit of getting the right thing done by people, and by organisations. We embody the transformational power of the student movement and share our lived and work experience of this power to maximise the potential of elected student leaders, professional staff teams, and students' unions as organisations. Our products and services are tailored to the needs of each individual client by recognising difference, specific needs, and changing circumstances.

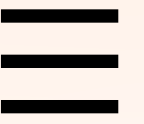




Stand 13: Perlego

Perlego is a digital learning platform that improves the learning experience for students and empowers educators with unlimited access to one of the biggest catalogues of academic and professional books from leading publishers.

Perlego



Stand 14: Intersol Global

Intersol Global have now supported over 50 Universities and several smaller independent HEIs with investigation and panel training, operational support, and, more recently, mediation in appropriate cases.

The benefits of commissioning Intersol Global include:

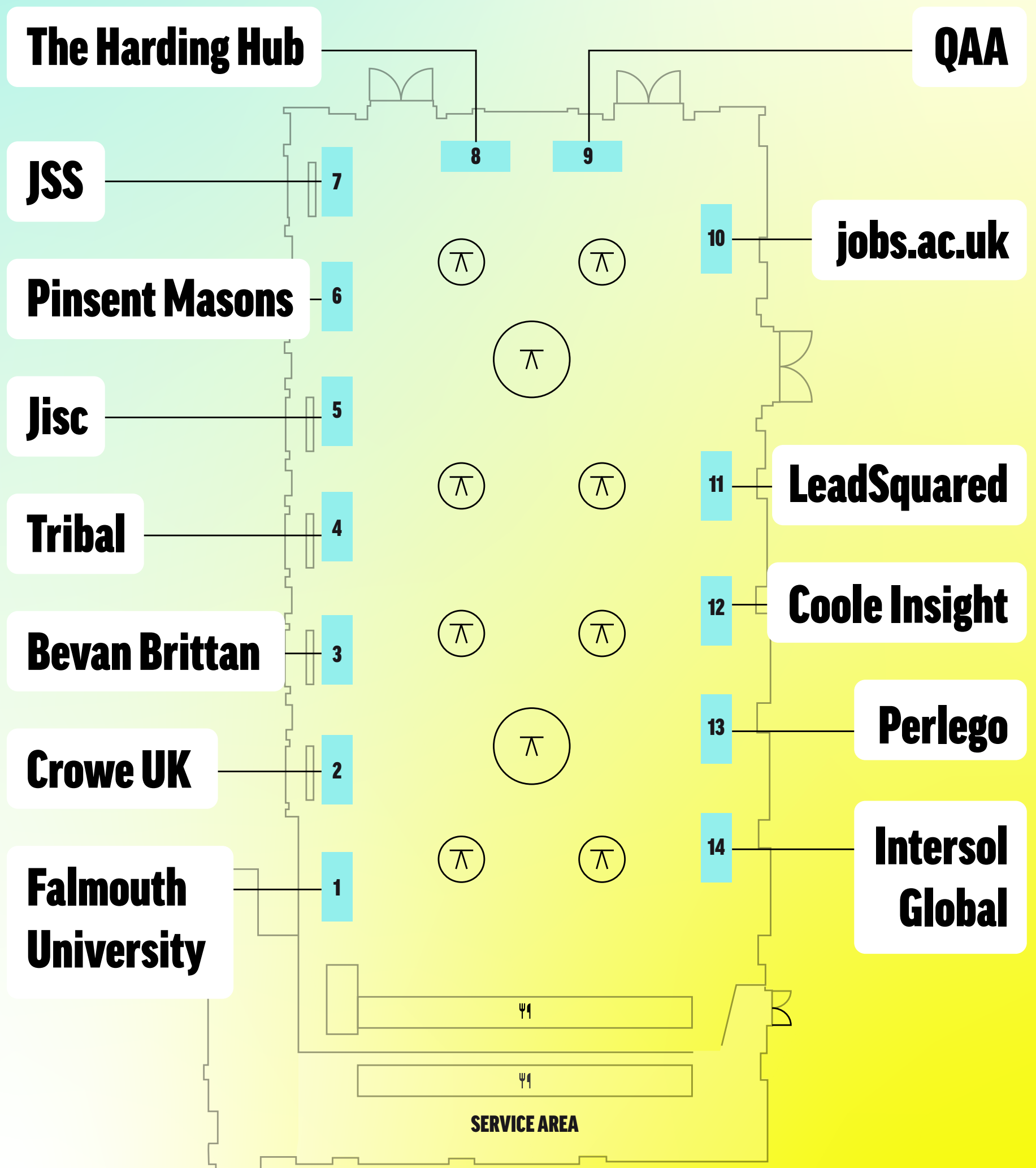
- external impartiality
- capacity, consistency, and capability
- professional, qualified, and trauma-informed specialist investigators
- national coverage that is flexible, diverse, and responsive
- all staff are employees, not associate consultants
- free advice and investigation planning
- secure case management platform, (Symplicity Advocate)
- ISO 9001 and BS 102000 accredited
- Leaving staff free to focus on their core teaching/management responsibilities.

INTERSOL
GLOBAL



EXHIBITION FLOOR PLAN

Please visit our exhibitors in the Great Hall.





IHE STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

AMPLIFYING THE STUDENT VOICE

The IHE Student Advisory Board (SAB) offers a unique opportunity for students at IHE member institutions to influence policies, represent their peers, and provide insights into the student experience to inform decision making at a national level.

The SAB plays a vital role in creating a compelling and strong student voice.

REAL IMPACT

To date, the IHE SAB has made significant contributions to national policy discussions:

- **Free speech:** SAB members engaged with the Office for Students (OfS) on their proposed regulation of free speech, contributing to consultations and shaping policy.
- **Partnerships:** The SAB played a key role in IHE's Academic Partnerships research project, giving crucial insight into the value of partnerships.



- **Disability support:** SAB members provided feedback on the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA), ensuring their experiences were an integral part of consultation responses on the future of funding processes.

BENEFITS

- **Professional growth:** Access to free training delivered by Coole Insight, experts in student representation.
- **Skills development:** Students gain experience in leadership, governance and advocacy, boosting their career prospects and demonstrating your institution's commitment to supporting student success.
- **National representation:** Enabling students to shape policies impacting both students and institutions.

Encourage your students to join the SAB, the only national forum specifically for students from independent higher education providers.

Applications are accepted throughout the year on a rolling basis.

Learn more and share this opportunity with your students >

IHE



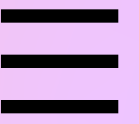
IHE AWARDS 2024

Member institutions



Individual



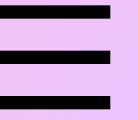


The IHE Awards celebrate the innovation, dedication, and excellence demonstrated by independent higher education providers across ten categories.

This year's awards honour achievements spanning student engagement, teaching and learning, digital innovation, internationalisation, and collaboration, spotlighting both institutional and individual contributions that drive positive impact.

Each award highlights the ways in which IHE members are shaping the future of education and supporting the independent higher education sector's continued growth.

With a record number of nominations this year, we are delighted to announce the 2024 shortlists. The winners will be revealed at our celebratory event immediately following the IHE Annual Conference.

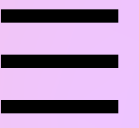


We would like to express our gratitude to our award sponsors and supporters for their valued contribution to the IHE Awards 2024, which enables us to recognise and celebrate the innovation and excellence within the independent higher education sector. We appreciate your partnership in championing the achievements of our members.



Thank you to our Drinks Reception sponsor, [LeadSquared](#).





Award shortlists

Member institutions

Empowering Student Voice



Inspiring Course



Technology Enhanced Learning



Supporting Student Success



Outstanding Collaboration



Advancing International Education

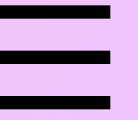


Supporting Staff Wellbeing



**Outstanding Contribution
to the IHE Community**





EMPOWERING STUDENT VOICE

Recognising IHE members who are empowering students to use their voice to effect change and make a positive difference in their institution.

SHORTLISTED:

Bloomsbury Institute



Dyson Institute of Engineering and Technology

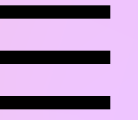


ESCP Business School



Kindly sponsored by:
Coole Insight Ltd





INSPIRING COURSE

Recognising IHE members who are transforming the learning experience of students and delivering impact through innovative course design, content and delivery.

SHORTLISTED:

Escape Studios



Royal Academy of Dance

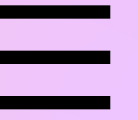


TEDI-London



Kindly sponsored by:
Ding Global





TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED LEARNING

Recognising IHE members who are evolving their use of technology to enhance the learner experience.

SHORTLISTED:

ACM



LIBF

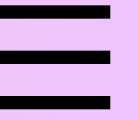


S P Jain London School of Management



Kindly supported by:
Perlego

Perlego



SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

Recognising IHE members who are taking a proactive approach to supporting students throughout the student journey.

SHORTLISTED:

**Dyson Institute of Engineering
and Technology**

dyson
institute of
engineering+
technology

Point Blank Music School



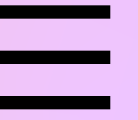
POINT BLANK
MUSIC SCHOOL

UCFB



Kindly sponsored by:
Tribal

T R I B A L



OUTSTANDING COLLABORATION

Recognising IHE members who are taking innovative approaches to building and maintaining links with industry and/or in the local community.

SHORTLISTED:

Fashion Retail Academy



Royal Academy of Dance



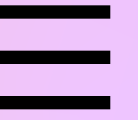
The University of Buckingham



THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM

Kindly sponsored by:
SEER





ADVANCING INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Recognising IHE members who are implementing initiatives to enhance the international student experience, promote the benefits of internationalisation, and develop their international offer.

SHORTLISTED:

ESCP Business School



NCUK

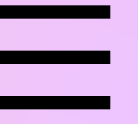


TEDI-London



Kindly supported by:
The IC





SUPPORTING STAFF WELLBEING

Recognising IHE members who are taking a proactive approach to supporting employees and fostering a positive working environment.

SHORTLISTED:

ACM



Kaplan International Pathways



UCFB



Kindly sponsored by:
Harding Hub

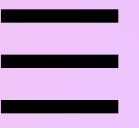




OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE IHE COMMUNITY (PROVIDER)

Recognising IHE member institutions who have demonstrated commitment to the IHE community and taken an active role in supporting our work as a representative body.

The recipient of this award will be announced at the awards ceremony



Award shortlists

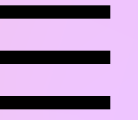
Individual

Rising Star



**Outstanding Contribution
to the IHE Community**





Celebrating individuals who are making a difference in the IHE community through their sustained and growing contribution to the work of IHE.

SHORTLISTED:

Andrew Ng, ACM

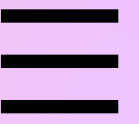


**Chris Baynard-Smith,
David Game College of
Higher Education**



**Maria Jackson,
Bloomsbury Institute**





OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE IHE COMMUNITY (INDIVIDUAL)

Recognising individuals for their dedication and lasting contributions to the IHE community.

The recipient of this award will be announced at the awards ceremony



INDEPENDENT HIGHER EDUCATION

#IHE2024

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 **@Independent_HE >**