



BỘ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING



ThinkTNE

Leveraging UK – Viet Nam

transnational education partnerships

A UK-Viet Nam Higher Education Collaboration Forum

Event handbook

Hanoi, 19 October 2023

Melia Hotel, 44 Ly Thuong Kiet street

Forewords



Professor Sir Steve Smith, UK Government International Education Champion

Welcome to the UK Viet Nam Higher Education Collaboration Forum.

I am thrilled to be back in Viet Nam following the Wilton Park Dialogue in Ho Chi Minh City in November 2022. On this occasion I am leading a TNE Mission with the participation of 14 UK higher education institutions and sectorial bodies. You will have already viewed their profiles and strategies for TNE engagement in Viet Nam, and I urge you to discuss potential partnerships with them whilst they are at the forum.

This mission, in addition to many other education events, is a marvellous way to help celebrate 50 years of UK/Viet Nam diplomatic relations.

The UK, are, as ever, grateful for the long-term partnership and support of Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) in helping us all to create an excellent education environment, across all streams of education.

We are keen to engage with yourselves and to scope potential TNE partnerships, in everything from research to curriculum development, capacity training for teachers, and some may also be interested in meeting investors to set up a joint physical campus.

I know too that our friends at the British Council have undertaken joint activities with Viet Nam Education Quality Management Agency MOET on enhancing the quality assurance system in higher education in Viet Nam with consultancy work conducted by QAA UK and a pilot internal review had done at five Vietnamese universities. I hope future UK Viet Nam institutional partnerships in this area will create an enabling environment for more collaboration in transnational education programmes.

All of these activities are under the auspices of the hugely productive Memorandum of Understanding that was signed, almost to the day, four years ago.

Both MOET and I will be keen to hear of potential partnerships forged at this event.



Assoc Prof Nguyen Van Phuc, Vice Minister, Ministry of Education and Training

It is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to you to the UK – Viet Nam Higher Education Collaboration Forum ‘Think TNE: Leveraging UK-Vietnam TNE Partnerships’. We are delighted to host representatives from 15 UK universities and higher education sectorial bodies and nearly 200 delegates from Vietnamese universities and international organisations. This gathering marks a celebration of the 50th anniversary of Viet Nam – UK diplomatic relationship and 30 years of British Council’s presence in Viet Nam.

Vietnam and the United Kingdom have a strong history of educational cooperation, and this conference underscores our commitment to further strengthening these ties. Transnational education is a key driver of internationalisation, and it plays a vital role in the growth and development of our educational landscape.

The Ministry is glad to join force with the British Embassy and the British Council in Viet Nam to organise this forum. The "Think TNE" forum provides a unique platform for fruitful dialogues, sharing best practices, and exploring new forms of cooperation. We recognise the tremendous value that UK-Vietnam TNE partnerships bring to our educational systems and the broader society.

As we embark on this journey together, I am confident that our discussions will lead to innovative solutions, fostering greater accessibility to quality education for our students and creating a positive impact on both our nations. I encourage you all to engage actively, share insights, and leverage this opportunity to strengthen the bridge between our countries through transnational education partnerships.

Let's work together to enrich the future of education partnership between Viet Nam and the United Kingdom.



Donna McGowan, Country Director, British Council Viet Nam

Dear Delegates

I would like to extend a warm welcome to each of you as we convene at this important UK–Viet Nam Higher Education Collaboration Forum on **‘Think TNE: Leveraging UK – Viet Nam Transnational Education**

Partnerships’.

The gathering of Viet Nam universities with 15 incoming UK universities and sectoral bodies holds great significance as 2023 marks 50 years of diplomatic relations between the UK and Viet Nam and the 30th anniversary of the British Council’s presence in Viet Nam. This forum provides a unique platform for us to exchange insights, discuss government strategies, explore current trends, and envision the future of transnational education (TNE), both within the context of Viet Nam and on a global scale. The collaboration between our countries in the field of education is a testament to the power of international cooperation and knowledge sharing.

At the British Council, we are committed to fostering trust, building connections, and creating opportunities between the United Kingdom and Viet Nam through Arts, Education and English language, of which TNE is an integral part. Education has long been a cornerstone of UK–Viet Nam relations, and the British Council has contributed to enhancing the quality of teaching and learning, as well as elevating English language proficiency standards among Vietnamese learners.

In the coming years, the British Council remains committed to promoting TNE partnerships that enhance the quality and accessibility of education in Vietnam. Our goal is to continue facilitating collaboration between Vietnamese and UK institutions, encouraging joint programmes, research initiatives and knowledge exchange. Through these partnerships, we aim to empower Viet Nam's young people, its future leaders, with the skills and knowledge needed to drive innovation together with sustainable social and economic development.

It is our privilege to co-organise this forum with Viet Nam’s Ministry of Education and Training and the UK’s Department for Business and Trade. By working together, we can shape the future of TNE in Viet Nam, and ensure that the UK continues to be a partner of choice for Viet Nam in the internationalisation of education and TNE development, bringing multiple benefits to the higher education institutions and students of both countries.

Thank you for being a part of this Forum, and I look forward to the enlightening discussions and collaborations that lie ahead.

Introduction

- As one of the fastest growing economies in the region and in the world, Viet Nam is facing challenges such as improving the quality of its workforce to meet the needs of its economic development. Resolution 29-NQ/TW on radical and fundamental innovation in education indicated measures to improve the quality of higher education, enhancing research, and promoting innovation through internationalisation.
- Education is a key pillar in the UK - Viet Nam strategic partnership and the UK is regarded as a preferred international partner as demonstrated by the Government-to-Government Education Memorandum of Understanding and the Memorandum of Collaboration between the British Council and the Ministry of Education and Training. Viet Nam is the third largest market for UK TNE in East Asia and in Viet Nam, the UK has the largest number of transnational education (TNE) programmes.
- The development of productive partnerships between UK-Viet Nam institutions will be essential for Viet Nam and UK knowledge economy to flourish. Transnational education is integral to positive education and scientific relations, and academic and student exchange between and within countries; it is most successful and sustainable when structured for mutual benefit.
- The British Council commits to support Viet Nam in their higher education reform agenda and implementation of Resolution 29-NQ/TW. Since 2021, the British Council has enabled 29 partnerships between 23 UK universities and 38 Viet Nam universities and organisations in response to MOET's priorities.
- This year, 2023 marks 50 years of UK-Viet Nam diplomatic relations and 30 years of the British Council in Viet Nam. This Forum will provide a platform for highlighting success stories of the UK-Viet Nam higher education partnerships during the past few years and creating opportunities for UK-Viet Nam HE partnerships in TNE to be developed further, both in breadth and depth.
- The British Embassy, the British Council and Ministry of Education and Training co-organise the UK-Viet Nam Higher Education Collaboration Forum on ThinkTNE – Leveraging UK-Viet Nam transnational education partnerships for HE leaders to:
 - Network – meet existing and new partners and share knowledge.
 - Discuss – outline the enabling environment in the form of strategy, trends, and opportunities for deepening and progressing TNE partnerships.
 - Partner – position the UK as a partner of choice for HE quality assurance and TNE, creating a platform to develop partnerships in teaching, learning and research.
 - Showcase – highlight success stories of UK-Viet Nam higher education partnerships as case studies and lessons learnt for future partnerships.

Participants

- Assoc Prof Nguyen Van Phuc, Vice Minister, Ministry of Education and Training Viet Nam
- Prof Sir Steve Smith, UK Government International Education Champion
- Relevant Departments from Ministry of Education and Training
- Rectors/Vice Rector, Presidents, Pro-Vice Chancellors and TNE partnership managers from UK and VN universities
- UK Department for Business and Trade, Department for Education, British Embassy Hanoi
- British Council in Viet Nam

Event programme

Time	Agenda
08.30–09.00	Registration and networking
09.00–09.20	<p>Welcome and opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Assoc Prof Nguyen Van Phuc, Vice Minister, Ministry of Education and Training</i> • <i>Prof Sir Steve Smith, UK Government International Education Champion</i> • <i>HE Iain Frew, His Majesty’s Ambassador to Viet Nam</i> • <i>Donna McGowan, Country Director, British Council Viet Nam</i>
09.20–10.00	<p>Plenary</p> <p>Strategy: Vietnamese HE development strategy and priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr Pham Nhu Nghe, Deputy Director General, Higher Education Department, Ministry of Education and Training</i> <p>Trends: Transnational education partnership – global trends and local opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Steve Woodfield, Head of Government Relations (Education), British Council</i> <p>Opportunities: Viet Nam TNE Market Openness report - Dissemination of key findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>VanAnh Hoang, Head of Education, British Council in Vietnam</i>

10.00–10.10	MOU signing between Vietnam Quality Management Agency, MOET and the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), UK
10.10–10.30	Break
10.30–12.35	<p>Panel discussions - Leveraging UK – Viet Nam TNE partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Panel 1 – Strategy <p>Role of TNE and changes in priorities, policies, and the regulatory environment to support TNE development in Viet Nam</p> <p>Moderator: Prof Sir Steve Smith, UK Government International Education Champion</p> <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr Pham Nhu Nghe, Deputy Director General, Higher Education Department, Ministry of Education and Training ○ Assoc Prof Ho Thuy Ngoc, Dean, Faculty of International Education, Foreign Trade University ○ Prof Rick Bennett, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Vice President, British University Viet Nam ○ Dr Faye Taylor, Deputy Director, International Strategy & Partnerships, Strategy Group Department for Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Panel 2: Trends <p>Enhancing Transnational Education Teaching and Learning</p> <p>Moderator: Prabha Sundram, Head of Education, British Council Malaysia</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vicky Stott, Chief Executive, QAA, UK ○ Dr Tran Tien Khai, Head, Department of Quality Assurance and Curriculum Development, University of Economics, Ho Chi Minh City ○ Davide Guarini Gilmartin, Senior Academic Manager, South East Asia, British Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Panel 3: Opportunities <p>Innovating Transnational Education Partnerships for the Future</p> <p>Moderator: Dr Suzanna Tomassi, Higher Education Specialist, Department for Business and Trade, UK</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Debra Hinds, Pro Vice Chancellor, International, Arden University

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr Fabrizio Trifiro, Head of Stakeholder, Engagement and International, Quality Reviews, ECCTIS, UK ○ Assoc Prof Nguyen Dac Trung, Director, International Cooperation Office, Hanoi University of Science and Technology ○ Sharron Gunn, Chief Operating Officer, ICAEW Global
12.35–12.45	<p>Closing</p> <p>Prof Sir Steve Smith, UK Government International Education Champion</p>
12.45–13.45	<p>Lunch break</p>
14.00–16.00	<p>1:1 business networking between UK and Vietnamese universities</p> <p>Function room 6, 7</p> <p><i>This session is for Vietnamese universities to have 1:1 meeting with UK institutions who are on TNE mission to discuss partnership opportunities. Pre-registration is required. Delegates joining the meetings will be communicated through emails.</i></p>
16.30–17.30	<p>Campus tour - Hanoi University of Science and Technology</p> <p>(for UK universities of TNE mission only)</p>

Opening remarks



Assoc Prof Dr Nguyen Van Phuc, Vice Minister, Ministry of Education and Training

Assoc Prof Dr Nguyen Van Phuc received his education in Viet Nam and the Netherlands. He is a leading expert in development economics and social economics. He has published many books and articles on these fields.

He started his career as a researcher at Ho Chi Minh City Institute for Development Studies in 1997. He has extensive academic and management experience in different positions including - Deputy Head of Development Research Centre at Ho Chi Minh City Institute for Development Studies;

Deputy Dean and then Dean of Economics Faculty of Ho Chi Minh Open University; Vice President and President of Ho Chi Minh Open University. He has received a number of awards and honours from national and international organisations and universities for his outstanding performance and service.

Dr Nguyen Van Phuc was appointed the Vice Minister of the Ministry Education and Training of Vietnam by the Prime Minister of Vietnam in September 2017. His portfolio includes international cooperation, science and technology, laws and regulations, digital transformation and IT application.



Prof Sir Steve Smith, UK Government International Education Champion

Professor Sir Steve Smith was appointed as the UK Government International Education Champion in June 2020, a new Government role aimed at boosting global education partnerships, He was also appointed as the Prime Ministers Special Representative for Education to Saudi Arabia in October 2020.

Sir Steve was the Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of the University of Exeter from October 2002 to August 2020. He was previously Professor of International Politics and the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, as well as

Head of the Department of International Politics, and Director of the Centre for Public Choice Studies at the University of East Anglia.

Education: He holds a BSc in Politics and International Studies, an MSc in International Studies, and a PhD in International Relations, all from Southampton University. He has also been awarded an Honorary DSc of the University of Southampton; an Honorary DEd at the University of the West of England; and is an Honorary Fellow of both Aberystwyth University and the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

UK Higher Education sector: Sir Steve has held several prominent positions in the UK higher education sector. Most notably he was President of Universities UK (UUK), the representative body for the executive heads of UK universities, from 2009 to 2011; and Chair of the UCAS Board from 2013 to 2019.

From June 2007 to May 2010, he led for higher education on the Prime Minister's National Council of Excellence in Education, which provided advice to the Government about strategy and measured to

achieve world-class education performance for children and young people. He was also a member of the Institute for Public Policy Research's Commission on the Future of higher Education.

Sir Steve was knighted in the 2011 Queen's Birthday Honours for services to higher education locally and nationally. In 2019 he was awarded Freeman of the City of Exeter for his contribution to the city and local community.



Iain Frew, His Majesty's Ambassador to Viet Nam

August 2022 – present: His Majesty's Ambassador to Viet Nam

2018 – 2021: Brasilia, Prosperity Counsellor later Deputy Head of Mission

2016 – 2017: FCO, Head of EU Exit Strategy Department

2015 – 2016: FCO, Deputy Head of Europe-Internal Department

2014 – 2015: Riga, Head of Mission

2012 – 2014: Brussels, Antici Counsellor (Permanent Rep. of UK to EU)

2011 – 2012: Brussels, First Secretary (EU Budget)

2007 – 2011: Moscow, Second later First Secretary (Political)

2005: Joined FCO



Donna McGowan, Country Director, British Council Viet Nam

Donna McGowan is the Director of the British Council in Vietnam. With 25 years' experience of British Council international work, involving team leadership and development in Latin America, Sub Saharan Africa, the Middle East and South East Asia, Donna has designed and implemented programmes with partners and stakeholders across a variety of fields. During this time her various roles have helped strengthen relationships across our work in education, arts and social development with public, private and voluntary organisations and institutions. Donna holds a degree in French and Politics, a master's in European Politics and Policy, and a professional diploma in Marketing.

Plenary

Strategy: Vietnamese HE development strategy and priorities



Dr Pham Nhu Nghe, Deputy Director General, Higher Education Department, Ministry of Education and Training

Dr Pham Nhu Nghe has 35 years of experience working in education, with 11 years as a lecturer, and 24 years at management positions from vocational to higher education. He has been Deputy Director General at the Ministry of Education and Training for 15 years.

Dr Pham Nhu Nghe is responsible for many important areas of higher education such as student recruitment and training in higher education; training and professional development for lecturers; student employability; top-up programmes; transnational education; training for specific areas as education, medicine and pharmacy, culture-arts-sports, national defense, political education, accreditation and quality assurance, inspection in higher education.

Trends: Transnational education partnership – global trends and local opportunities



Steve Woodfield, Head of Government Relations, Education, British Council

Steve Woodfield is Head of Government Relations in Education at the British Council. He connects UK government and higher education policy stakeholders with the British Council's international education work across its global network. He leads on the British Council's engagement with the UK International Education Strategy and its work to support the UK Government International Education Champion, Sir Steve Smith.

Before joining the British Council, he was an Associate Professor at Kingston University and worked for seventeen years as an academic researcher in the university sector and policy consultant with specialist expertise in international higher education and higher education management and policy. His publications include studies for the UK and overseas governments and HE policy agencies on internationalisation strategies, the wider benefits of international education, student perspectives on studying abroad, and the extent and value of transnational education. He has also co-written a report on the UK's approach to the internationalisation of HE for the European Parliament.

Opportunities: Viet Nam TNE Market Openness report - Dissemination of key findings



Hoang Van Anh, Head of Education, British Council in Viet Nam

Hoang Van Anh is the Head of Education at the British Council in Viet Nam. She holds a Master of Business Administration from LaTrobe University (Australia). Before joining the British Council, she worked for Australian Education International (AEI) as their Deputy Director (Education Development) and for the University of Queensland (Australia) as the Viet Nam Representative. Her passion is on promoting internationalisation of education as a way to improve quality of education, providing more opportunities for young people and contributing to social and economic growth. She strongly believes that multilateral partnership in education will bring about solutions to tackle social and economic development challenges not just in Viet Nam but regionally and globally. Her area of interest includes youth leadership, skills, higher education, science, research and innovation.

Panel discussion 1: Strategy

Role of TNE and changes in priorities, policies, and the regulatory environment to support TNE development in Viet Nam

- Discuss the current regulatory framework and policies supporting TNE collaboration between the UK and Viet Nam.
- Share experiences, challenges, and opportunities in delivering TNE programmes
- Present the investment landscape and potential for growth in the UK-Vietnam TNE sector.



Moderator: Prof Sir Steve Smith, UK Government International Education Champion

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Dr Pham Nhu Nghe, Deputy Director General, Higher Education Department, Ministry of Education and Training

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Assoc Prof Dr Ho Thuy Ngoc, Dean, Faculty of International Education, Foreign Trade University

She has been managed international programmes in the Foreign Trade University since 2010. In addition, she has over 20 years working at all levels of public education including lecturing, advising or managing.

She has made national and international presentations for many professional groups, mostly on the cross-border programme management, quality assurance at higher education.



Prof Rick Bennett, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Vice President of British University Vietnam

Raised and educated in London, England, Prof Bennett completed a Bachelor degree in Fine Arts from Bristol Polytechnic. Following graduation in 1984, he was employed for 7 years in the UK TV/film industry. In 1990, he emigrated to Australia and began working for UNSW. In 1998, Prof Bennett completed a Master of Higher Education degree (UNSW) and subsequently, initiated an ongoing research project that explores advantages of using digital technology within education. In 2009, Prof Bennett completed his PhD thesis (University of Sydney) titled; Drawing on The Virtual Collective: Exploring Online

Collaborative Creativity in the Visual Arts.

In addition, Prof Bennett passionately continues to work on a series of Creative Outreach projects that aim to assist communities in less fortunate parts of the world – including Kenya, Uganda, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines.



Dr Faye Taylor, Deputy Director, International Strategy & Partnerships, Strategy Group Department for Education, UK

Dr Faye Taylor is Deputy Director for International Strategy & Partnerships at the Department of Education, UK. Her team works across the UK Civil Service and with Governments overseas to create opportunities for people, businesses and society to thrive through education partnerships. Previously she worked in government relations advocating for Higher Education, research and innovation for University Alliance and the Association of Commonwealth universities. Before that, she researched and taught medieval European History, completing her PhD at the University of Nottingham.

Panel discussion 2: Trends

Enhancing Transnational Education Teaching and Learning

- Discuss the importance of maintaining high academic standards and quality assurance in TNE.
- Provide perspectives on effective teaching methodologies and academic excellence in TNE.
- Discuss the role of English as the medium of instruction in TNE and its impact on learning outcomes.
- Highlight the alignment between TNE programmes and employer expectations.



Moderator: Prabha Sundram, Head of Education, British Council Malaysia

Prabha Sundram is currently Head of Education at the British Council in Malaysia. She leads a small team which manages the British Council's portfolio of programmes in the Education sector, with a special focus on Higher Education. She has over 20 years of diverse work experience in the Education sector in Malaysia, which includes both practitioner and management roles in the schools, special education, TVET and higher education areas. Together with her team at the British Council, Prabha leads on developing key initiatives that enhance access to partnership opportunities for internationalisation in

higher education between UK and MY, aligning it with regional and global strategy, UK strengths and Malaysian national priorities. This includes contributing input into regional and global research insights, building the Alumni UK network in Malaysia and convening platforms to discuss higher education and research that broker and facilitate partnerships between UK and Malaysia higher education institutions.



Vicki Stott, Chief Executive, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, UK

Vicki became Chief Executive of Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) on 1 November 2021, after joining the Agency in 2019 as Executive Director of Operations and Deputy CEO.

Prior to joining QAA, Vicki worked at St Hugh's College Oxford, where she was the Bursar (COO), a Director of Oxford Limited, St Hugh's Conferences, St Hugh's Estates and a founding Director of NOSCS. She has also worked at University of Birmingham as the Director of Strategic Planning and in

various roles at the University of Warwick and Warwick Business School. She started her career in higher education at UMIST, where she worked in international student recruitment. Vicki also has experience in the commercial and charity sectors, having run her own company and been director of a charity working with women and families affected by domestic abuse.



Assoc Prof Tran Tien Khai, Head, Department of Quality Assurance and Curriculum Development, University of Economics, Ho Chi Minh City

He graduated as an Agronomy Engineer in Vietnam in 1987 and started his career in a provincial agricultural development centre. Since 1991, he moved to Institute of Agricultural Science for Southern Vietnam, where he was a researcher in rice breeding. In 1994 he joined in an international research project for economics of rice value chains in Mekong Delta and got an opportunity to study in Belgium. He got the Diplomas of Engineer, Master and

PhD in Agricultural Economics and Rural Development from the *Faculté universitaire de Sciences agronomiques de Gembloux*, Belgium. Back to the Institute, he kept the position of the Head of Dept. of Research Management and International Cooperation.

He has joined the University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City since 2008 and experienced different positions as senior lecturer and Depart. Head of the School of Economics, the Vice Head of the Department of Research Management and International Cooperation. He has started his role in Quality Assurance since 2018, and become the main organiser for all QA activities of the University.



Davide Guarini Gilmartin, Senior Academic Manager, South East Asia, British Council

Davide Guarini Gilmartin is the British Council in Viet Nam's Senior Academic Manager, English Programmes. He is a teacher educator with almost 24 years' experience and has worked with British Council since 2003. He has extensive experience of teacher development projects across East Asia, having designed or delivered projects and programmes for British Council in China, Indonesia, Myanmar, Peru, Thailand, and Vietnam. He holds a BA (Honours) in Town & Country Planning, a Trinity TESOL Certificate and a Cambridge DELTA Diploma. Prior to entering the education sector, he spent eight years working in the UK local government sector as an urban and policy planner.

Panel discussion 3: Opportunities

Changes in Vietnam's TNE landscape and what are the short/medium/long term prospects for TNE in Viet Nam - Innovating Transnational Education Partnerships for the Future

- Discuss the role of innovation in reshaping TNE partnerships and curriculum.
- Explore the evolution of graduate skill sets and the partnership's role in fostering new capabilities.
- Examine the rise of micro credentials and their impact on lifelong learning and TNE.
- Discuss the transformative role of technology in shaping TNE partnerships.



Moderator: Dr Suzanna Tomassi, Higher Education Specialist, Department for Business and Trade, UK

Working as the HE specialist in the UK Department for Business and Trade, Suzanna supports the delivery of the International Education Strategy, promoting the UK HE sector and identifying TNE opportunities for UK HE providers abroad. With 20+ years' experience in HE, she spent 17 years in business development, working with academic partners in the UK and abroad at the top UK TNE players. In addition to PhD, MBA and two Masters Degrees, she is senior fellow of AdvanceHE. Suzanna has published on HE and frequently presented on internationalisation and partnerships in the UK

and abroad.

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Debra Hinds, Associate Pro Vice Chancellor Partnerships, Arden University

Debra Hinds joined Arden University in May 2021. As Pro Vice Chancellor International, she heads up the Centre for Academic Partnerships and is responsible for further internationalising Arden University.

Prior to joining Arden, Debra spent 16 years as a leading academic, initially leading a law faculty delivering franchised and validated programmes before becoming key lead in law for BPP University's seven partner centres in four different countries. After this she spent two years scoping and building new international and UK based academic partners for a public university including the due diligence, rationale, and approvals through to onboarding new partners.

Debra enjoys the can do, will do approach of Arden University's teams and the Arden vision of making education accessible to students wherever they are.



Assoc Prof Nguyen Dac Trung, Director, International Cooperation Office, Hanoi University of Science and Technology

Associate Professor Nguyen Dac Trung is a researcher and senior lecturer in the field of Mechanical Engineering at Hanoi University of Science and Technology (HUST).

He graduated PhD in 2003 at Technical University of Dresden, Germany. From 2003 to present, he has been teaching and doing scientific research at HUST. He has conducted numerous research projects, authored many specialized books, and published over 70 articles in prestigious international journals and forums.

Besides teaching and research work, he has also been involved in the management of undergraduate and postgraduate education of HUST, as well as participated in the development of new academic models and programmes at the university.

From September 2023, as Director of the Department of Partnership and Engagement, with his extensive experience in higher education, he will make an effort to leverage the international education cooperation between HUST and global partners.



Sharron Gunn, Chief Operating Officer, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

She joined Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) in 2001 as Head of Technical Service and Product Development before being promoted to Director, Member Services in 2006 and to Executive Director in 2012. Sharron qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1989. After leaving practice, she worked as a financial accountant for Wates City plc before joining J Sainsbury's plc in 1993, where she held a variety of roles. Over the past 20 years, Sharron has driven a wide range of new member support services and

commercial activities, such as the transformation of ICAEW's member facilities at Chartered Accountants' Hall.

As COO, Sharron leads the overall operational efficiency of the organisation and enhances matrix working across departmental boundaries. With the support of four Managing Directors, she oversees all the functions that support ICAEW's Strategic Foundations: Belonging and Supporting, Education and Training, and Reputation and Influence. This includes Learning and Development, Members, Technical Strategy, International, Commercial, Digital and Brand / Marketing.



Dr Fabrizio Trifiro, Head of Stakeholder Engagement and International Quality Reviews, ECCTIS, UK

Dr Fabrizio Trifiro is Head of Stakeholder Engagement and International Quality Reviews at Ecctis, the agency that manages the qualification recognition function (UK ENIC) on behalf of the UK Government.

Fabrizio joined Ecctis in 2019 after over 10 years with the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) where he led on the quality assurance of UK TNE, international engagement, and the international student experience. In 2022 Fabrizio supported as an independent expert the Office for Students (OfS) in

England in developing their international engagement strategy to support their oversight of English TNE.

Fabrizio is a member of the Board of Directors of the International Network of Quality Assurance in Higher Education (INQAAHE), a member of the Accreditation Committee of the British Accreditation Council, and a member of the Governing Board of Wrexham University in Wales. With over 15 years' experience in quality assurance and international education, he acts as a reviewer for a range of international quality assurance bodies.

Organisers

About the Ministry of Education and Training

Ministry of Education and Training is a government body who is responsible for providing governmental management to K-12 education, schools, colleges of education, universities and other education institutes about programme aims, curriculum, training content; regulations for exams, recruitment and qualifications, certificates; professional development for educational managers and teaching staff; infrastructures and equipments; quality assurance, quality accreditation; governmental management of public services under the remit of the Ministry of Education and Training.

About the British Embassy

The British Embassy Hanoi represents the UK government in Vietnam. Our work covers a range of areas including: political-diplomatic cooperation, global and regional issues, international trade, sustainable socio-economic development, education, training, science and technology, security and defence, and people-to-people links.

About the British Council

We support peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide.

We work directly with individuals to help them gain the skills, confidence and connections to transform their lives and shape a better world in partnership with the UK. We support them to build networks and explore creative ideas, to learn English, to get a high-quality education and to gain internationally recognised qualifications.

In 2023, the British Council in Viet Nam is marking its 30th anniversary, celebrating our commitment to building connections between the UK and Viet Nam.

www.britishcouncil.vn

Highlights of British Council work in Education – Now and Then

International Education Policy	We shape the future of further and higher education by convening education policy dialogues, like the UK Mission, for leaders in international education to connect, share knowledge, and build a global network of policy influencers and decision-makers.
Leadership and Governance	We strengthen university governance and autonomy by supporting leadership development in Viet Nam and improving the quality and efficiency of institutions and systems contributing to Viet Nam’s higher education reform agenda.

Quality Assurance, Benchmarking, Transnational Education	We develop standards by supporting Viet Nam Quality Management Agency, MOET, and universities in Viet Nam to align with the ASEAN Quality Assurance Framework and other benchmarks, while UK Transnational Education (TNE) research, reports, and policy events, all improve the quality of HE and pedagogical institutions.
Science and Innovation, Teaching, Research and Knowledge Transfer	We enhance research and technology transfer through teaching excellence schemes, performance-based funding, and promoting university-industry links, with impact realised at individual, institutional, and system levels, and measured through institutional Teaching, Research, Innovation, and Knowledge Transfer (TRIKT) metrics.
University Industry Links	We explore UK-Viet Nam higher education partnerships, developing University-Industry links through knowledge-sharing and the introduction of best-practice models engagement, so improving graduate outcomes, research, and innovation.
Gender Equality, Women Empowerment	We commit to social inclusion and gender equality in higher education by supporting the increased participation of female leaders, building on UK experience and global expertise in these fundamental areas of EDI (Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion).
Digital Transformation	We support higher education development in Viet Nam by sharing UK knowledge and expertise, working with the Higher Education Department, Ministry of Education and Training on partnership opportunities for their digital transformation strategy, enhancing digital capacity.
Climate Change	We work together to enhance community knowledge and raise awareness of the importance of protecting our planet and creating a sustainable, more habitable environments for all, through the lens of Arts, Education, and Research.
Student Mobility and Employability	We make the UK a preferred destination for Vietnamese students by promoting the diversity of study experience in the four nations, supporting a quality agent and school counsellor network, strengthening alumni relations, and showcasing them as great ambassadors of UK education.

Contact

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