



*Innovation and Human Connection: Harmonising the Future of Education*

**Tuesday 29<sup>TH</sup> April 2025**

**University of Strathclyde Technology and Innovation Centre, Glasgow**

## **Programme schedule**

08:30 - 09:00 Registration, refreshments and networking

09:00 - 10:00 Welcome and keynote address

10:05 - 10:55 Breakout Sessions 1

10.55 - 11:20 Refreshments and networking break

11:20 - 12:10 Breakout Sessions 2

12:10 - 13:30 Lunch and networking

13:30 - 14:20 Breakout Sessions 3

14:20 - 14:50 Refreshments and networking break

14:50 - 15:40 Breakout Sessions 4

15:45 - 16:00 Closing plenary

16:00 - 17:00 Drinks and networking reception

*Please note all sessions are subject to change.*

## ENIC NORTH 2025 Conference sponsorship

*In association with*



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## **Conference programme**

08:30 – 09:00 Registration, refreshments, and networking

09:00 – 10.00 Welcome and keynote session

ENIC NORTH 2025 explores the relationship between technological innovations in education and the impact these have on the personal experiences.

'EdTech' developments in education are well documented, including a growing awareness and application of AI, with innovations occurring at pace. But how do these changes affect the personal experience and how do they address the needs of learners? During a period of change, challenge and some uncertainty, ENIC NORTH 2025 will consider the role technology can play to improve learning experiences, enhance education provision and benefit learners.

Experts from across the education sector will explore this question throughout the day, bringing a diversity of experience and insight to address how technological innovation has an impact in their areas of work, and look to the challenges and solutions that technology may bring.

### **Opening welcome and keynote session**

Catherine Winter, Chief Executive Officer, UK ENIC

### **Keynote speech and Q&A**

Prof. Simon Thomson, NTF PFHEA ADE, Director of Flexible Learning, Office of The President and Vice Chancellor, University of Manchester

\*Every conference delegate will be automatically registered for the start of day plenary.

## Breakout sessions 1

10:05 – 10:55

### Session descriptors

Fraud insights panel

Auditorium B & C

**Julie Hepburn,**  
**ACCA Global**

Do fraud policies, practices and processes have individuals at the centre of their considerations? How can counter-fraud activities keep student interests at heart, protect organisational integrity and integrate technological change?

**Mervyn Adams,**  
**International  
Compliance  
Manager,  
City of Glasgow  
College**

Fraud is a constant, a challenge that evolves alongside technological advances. This cross-sector panel look at the policies and approaches to dealing with fraud. It provides an opportunity for attendees to listen to the challenges that exist, share experiences and reflect on the lessons that we can learn from each other.

**Nancy Cooke,**  
**Director of  
International  
Development,  
University of  
Salford**

This session provides plenty of opportunity for questions, discussion and interaction with our panel of speakers.

**Ruth Clunie,**  
**Admissions  
Officer,  
The University of  
Edinburgh**

Password English Language Testing - Using English language testing to streamline admissions processes and elevate the student experience

Auditorium A

**Simi Kohli,**  
**Head of Global  
Partnerships and  
Communication**

English language proficiency is not just an admissions requirement, it is a key predictor of academic success, retention, and overall student experience. This session will examine how universities can integrate English language testing into their admissions processes to ensure students are fully prepared for the academic challenges of studying in the UK. We will discuss how effective language assessments can streamline

**Shelley Vink,**  
**Head of University**  
**Partnerships**

admissions, improve student readiness, and enhance institutional reputation. Join us to explore the benefits of prioritising English language proficiency.

**Pavla Drabkova,**  
**Academic Program**  
**Manager - Global**  
**College,**  
**Heriot-Watt University**

## Recognition of Microcredentials

Conference room 2

**Axel Dessen,**  
**Research Operations**  
**Manager, UK ENIC**

Are microcredentials the future of education? How ready and available are micro qualifications amongst education providers? What do they mean to international students? And do they link to the needs of the world of work?

This session will explore what microcredentials are, what they offer learners, and how UK ENIC approaches evaluating them.

## How to get the most out of your UK ENIC membership – a practical session

Conference room 1

**Beccy Lawrence,**  
**Membership Operations**  
**Manager, UK ENIC**

This practical session focuses on UK ENIC's data and services, which can be used to support admissions and recruitment activities. This includes advice and tips on using our resources, including the Certificate Bank, Member Enquiry Service, institution listings and country files.

**Ted Cernik,**  
**Membership Account**  
**Executive, UK ENIC**

In this hands-on session, UK ENIC colleagues will guide attendees through key service and enquiry features, by using its renowned International Comparisons database.

The session should help demonstrate how UK ENIC membership can make day-to-day work easier for members. The session is practically focussed, with audience interaction, and using real-life examples from the databases.

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Break and refreshments 10:55 – 11:20

## Breakout sessions 2

11:20 – 12:10

### Session descriptors

Shared Vision, shared success: Strengthening the student-Institution relationship

Auditorium B & C

**Jane O'Loughlin,**  
*University of Edinburgh and*  
**STRATIS**

What are the fundamental needs of our international students? How do institution staff and student representatives ensure those needs are identified, met and covered satisfactorily?

**UKCISA student ambassadors**

This group discussion will present the perspectives of both student and institution, and reflect upon the variety of social, cultural and study-related needs from start to finish of students' individual journeys.

Education in India

Auditorium A

**Xènia Corominas,**  
*Membership Account*  
*Executive, UK ENIC*

This session provides an overview of the most common school and undergraduate qualifications within the Indian education system.

**Priscila Vibeke,**  
*Senior Information*  
*Officer (Training and*  
*Events), UK ENIC*

India is an important country in the recruitment of international students. The session has been scheduled following feedback from members asked to identify those countries important to them.

The AI Revolution in Admissions: an opportunity enabler or blocker?

Conference room 2

**Mónica Camino Moreno,**  
*CEO, Dialexy*

The conversation is no longer hypothetical. AI is here, and it's already reshaping the landscape of F/HEIs, from recruitment through credential evaluation to responsible internationalisation. The choice is: embrace or adapt?

**Blaise Potard,**  
*CTO & Co-founder,*  
*Dialexy*

In this engaging, practical session we will move beyond speculation to explore how AI can impact some of the admissions team's daily tasks and its ripple effect on the institution's students, teams and strategic objectives. Get ready to hands-on test drive Dialexy's purpose-built solutions for automating

document identification, multilingual translation, or intelligent data extraction. We'll confront the potential threats, explore the exciting possibilities for increased efficiency, diversity and strategic impact, and navigate the crucial ethical considerations of automation.

### Quality assurance and accreditation - a practical session

Conference room 1

**Jodie Duffy,**  
*Head of Research, Data  
and Insights,*  
**UK ENIC**

How do you know if an institution is accredited? Are processes of accreditation the same across the world?

Our Head of Research, Data and Insights leads this session, which will explore UK ENIC's processes for evaluating international qualifications.

Attendees will learn about the ways in which quality assurance is provided in different countries, how this can be challenging and the effect this has on our ability to evaluate awards.

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Lunch and networking 12:10 – 13:30

## Breakout sessions 3

13:30 – 14:20

### Session descriptors

#### Responsible internationalisation

Auditorium B & C

**Nancy Cooke,**  
*Director of International  
Development,*  
**University of Salford**

What does responsible internationalisation mean? What does it look like? This session considers how governments, institutions and organisations can embrace responsible strategies to ensure the best international student experiences.

**Robbie Willis,**  
*Head of International and  
Postgraduate Recruitment,*  
**The University of Edinburgh**

In a world of challenges, competition and financial limitations, this session will explore the importance and growing awareness of responsible internationalisation.

**Stuart Rennie,**  
**AfaraEd**

With expert insight from international consultancy, institutional recruitment and student perspectives, our panellists will consider how it is possible to find the right students for the right courses, through strategies underpinned by responsible internationalisation.

**Harish Lokhun,**  
*Head of Education Scotland,*  
*British Council,*  
*Scotland*

**'Humanising' the education journey and experience through EdTech**

**Auditorium A**

**Chris Gibson,**  
*Sales Manager,*  
*Gecko*

From the first point of contact to post-graduation: (how) can technology facilitate the recruiter, institution and individual experiences along each stage of the student journey?

**Jonny Richardson,**  
*Head of AI,*  
*Gecko*

Regular UK ENIC conference speakers, Gecko, will provide an engaging, interactive and hands-on session. They will explore the power of technology, its accessibility and potential, and the value that EdTech can bring to the student and institution experiences.

**Education in the Philippines**

**Conference room 2**

**Ted Cernik,**  
*Membership Account Executive,*  
*UK ENIC*

This session will provide an overview of the most common school and undergraduate qualifications from the Philippines.

**Jessiel Vasquez,**  
*Information Officer,*  
*UK ENIC*

Based on the results of our member survey, a session on an emerging country of interest for attracting international students.

**Discussion Hub**

**Conference room 1**

Our discussion hub provides you with the opportunity to discuss core and current issues with colleagues working across the international education sector. In this session, you have the opportunity to share your insights, reflect on the challenges you face and talk about the changes taking place. Through facilitated conversation this gives everyone a voice and a chance to listen and learn from others' experiences. Our discussion hubs are informal, in small groups and led by you!

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**Break and refreshments 14:20 – 14:50**

**Breakout sessions 4**



**14:50 – 15:40**

## **Session descriptors**

**Beyond Buzzwords: Human-Centred AI in International Admissions**

**Auditorium B & C**

**Cato Rolea**  
**Assistant**  
**Director of**  
**Digital**  
**Transformation,**  
**UK ENIC**

Cutting through the hype to explore practical, people-first uses of AI that enhance, not replace, human connection.

In a world flooded with AI jargon and shiny new tools, it's easy to get lost in the noise. This session invites international education professionals to refocus on what truly matters: people.

**Vangelis**  
**Tsilikgiris,**  
**Professor of**  
**International**  
**Education,**  
**Nottingham**  
**Business**  
**School**

We'll move beyond the buzzwords to unpack pragmatic, ethical, and human-centred uses of AI in student recruitment and engagement.

From intelligent automation that frees up time for real conversations, to tools that personalise at scale without losing empathy, this is a grounded look at how AI can support, not supplant, the human touch at the heart of international education.

You'll leave with:

- Practical AI applications you can implement today
- Strategies to keep empathy and cultural nuance front and centre
- A clear-eyed view of where AI adds value, and where it doesn't

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**Ready, steady, grades!**

**Auditorium A**

**Jodie Duffy,**  
**Head of Research, Data**  
**and Insights,**  
**UK ENIC**

The UK ENIC International Grade Comparisons (IGC) database provides a wealth of data and information to help anyone who works with qualification grades.

From improving understanding of grade meanings, to evaluating applicant suitability and readiness, IGC provides an invaluable resource to help make informed grade-related decisions.

This session shows attendees how to use the database effectively and creatively.

**Fraud and Verification - a practical session**

**Conference room 2**

**Beccy Lawrence,**  
**Membership Operations**  
**Manager, UK ENIC**

A practical, UK ENIC-led session to highlight the key tips and tricks for spotting problematic institutions and qualifications, with case study examples.

**Oliver Pritchard,**  
**Senior Events and**  
**Training Executive,**  
**UK ENIC**

We will look at some of the key areas of educational fraud that members should be aware of, providing key characteristics to look out for on documentation and websites, and working towards a checklist to help determine the legitimacy of a qualification.

### Investigating qualifications: Certificate surgery - a practical session

Conference room 1

**Xènia Corominas,**  
**Membership Account**  
**Executive, UK ENIC**

Have you ever had a tricky qualification to deal with, but weren't sure where to start with it?

**Priscila Vibeke,**  
**Senior Information Officer**  
**(Training and Events), UK**  
**ENIC**

In this workshop-style session, attendees can bring along problematic, challenging and tricky qualifications. UK ENIC staff will be on hand to give the prognosis, offer support, advise on database features to use and talk you through the appropriate diagnosis.

In this workshop, country and qualification experts from UK ENIC will review those problematic certificate examples.

Delegates are also encouraged to send their queries to UK ENIC, including documentation, ahead of the session. Our experts will endeavour to review and discuss as many of these as is practical during the session.

Trickier cases may need a referral.

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**Closing plenary 15:45 – 16:00**

**Drinks and networking reception 16:00 - 17:00**

Please note all sessions, allocated rooms, and speakers are subject to change.