

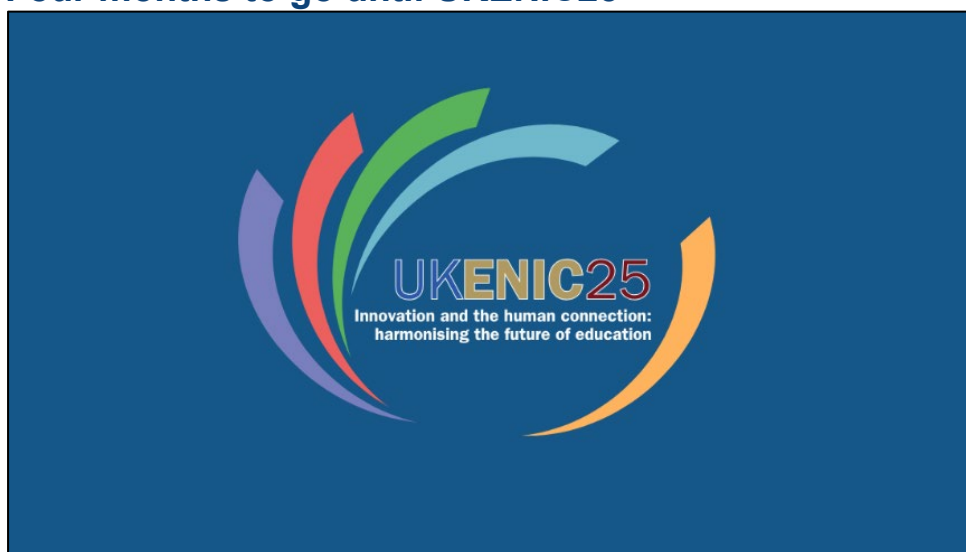
July 2025

Issue 53

Welcome to the UK ENIC newsletter

A round-up of the latest news, updates, training and events from the team at UK ENIC.

Four months to go until UKENIC25



There are four months to go until our UKENIC25 conference in London.

Our two-day event is being held at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre, in the heart of Westminster, on Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 December.

This year's theme will be "Innovation and the human connection: harmonising the future of education", and will continue conversations that started at ENIC NORTH, earlier this year.

We are pleased to share that UKENIC25 will be in association with [Skills for English](#), [IELTS](#) and [LANGUAGECERT](#). It will be supported by [Oxford International Digital Institute](#), [UniQuest](#), [Gecko](#) and [Trinity College London](#).

Further sponsors to be announced soon.

[Read more](#)

Changes to GCSE English comparability



Members may be aware that we recently updated the wording of the ‘additional information’ in certain qualification entries in our International Comparisons database.

The changes primarily concerned English school subjects and followed on from a wider review of our GCSE comparability guidance.

For context, English may be studied as either a first language (EFL) or as a second language (ESL). This depends on the country and qualification in question.

EFL subjects are designed for native speakers. Key markers include the in-depth study of challenging texts, a critical comparison of multiple texts, and writing for impact.

ESL, on the other hand, is characterised by language *acquisition*. Secondary school curricula typically focus on comprehension, everyday interactions, and developing fluency.

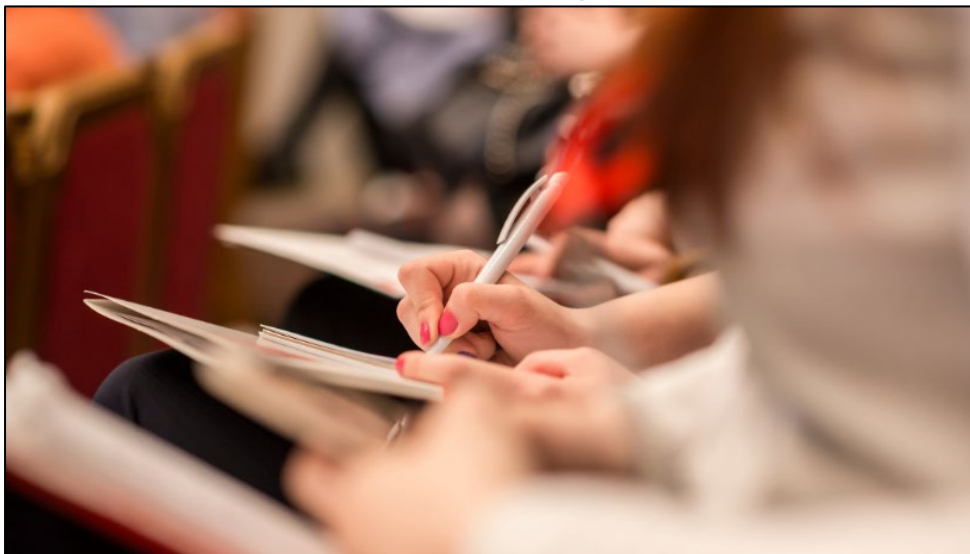
As such, teaching and assessment are generally quite different to those of EFL subjects such as the UK’s GCSE English.

After careful consideration, we decided to no longer compare any ESL subjects to GCSE English. We believe this improves the accuracy of our guidance, ensuring greater fairness, consistency and transparency.

However, our broader approach to assessing qualifications remains the same. Our evaluations reflect national standards and aren’t a comment on a specific individual’s language proficiency.

As always, an applicant’s suitability for further study or employment should be determined by the relevant institution or employer.

UK ENIC represented at Embassy Education Conference



Representatives from UK ENIC recently attended the Embassy Magazine: Embassy Education Conference at Kings College London.

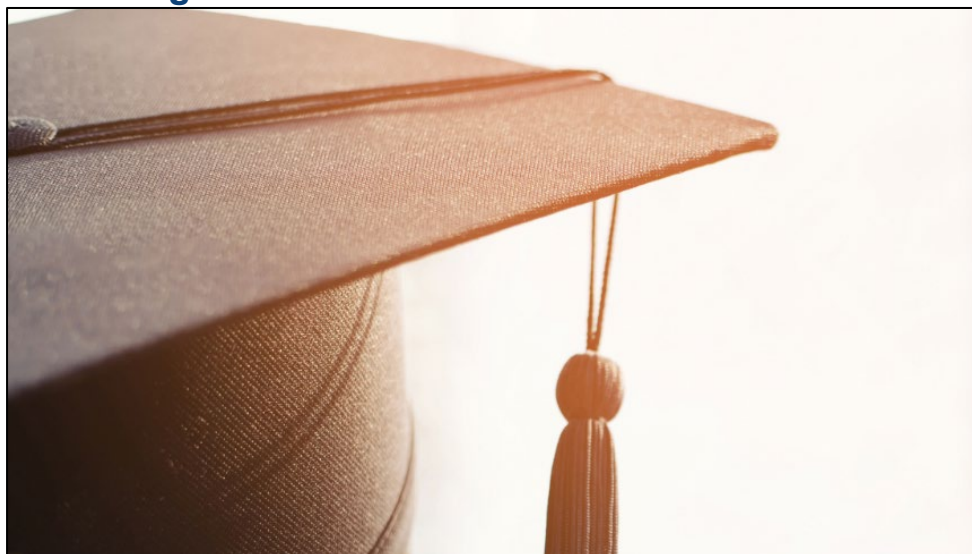
The annual conference is an opportunity to meet senior policy makers and education providers to discuss a range of topics in international education, science and research.

Held on 30 June, the event included a plenary speech from Vivienne Stern (Universities UK), who talked about soft power and how the UK can leverage this, as well as the importance of internationalisation.

There were various break-out sessions covering a range of topics including transnational education, the UK higher education institutional landscape and the Policy Framework for the International Education Strategy.

[Read more](#)

Our new comparability advice for Bachelor degrees from Bangladesh



Our team recently concluded research on Bangladesh, leading to an upgrade in our assessment of Bachelor degrees from the country.

Aisling Evans, UK ENIC International Education Analyst, explains more about the changes in this ten-minute read.

[Read more](#)

UK ENIC among UNESCO meeting delegation in Paris



UK ENIC was among those representing the United Kingdom at the Second Ordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Conference at the UNESCO headquarters, Paris, in June.

The conference meets every two years to review the outcomes of the previous work programme (2023-25) and to adopt the new 'interim work programme' for the next two years.

It oversees progress on the implementation of the UNESCO Global Convention on Higher Education, of which the UK is a signatory, and this directly relates to our work and purpose as UK ENIC.

Chris Lyons attended on behalf of UK ENIC, alongside UK colleagues Maxim Polya-Vitry (Permanent Delegation to UNESCO, British Embassy, Paris) and Ella Williams (Department for Education), to provide technical support and guidance.

[Read more](#)

69 qualifications reviewed, resulting in 40 database updates



As part of our ongoing database development work during recent months, UK ENIC has reviewed 69 qualifications from:

Afghanistan, [Austria](#), [Bangladesh](#), [Belize](#), [Botswana](#), [Brazil](#), [Canada](#), [Croatia](#), [Egypt](#), [Eswatini](#), [France](#), [Gambia](#), [Guyana](#), [Honduras](#), [Hong Kong](#), [Hungary](#), [India](#), [Iran](#), [Kosovo](#), [Latvia](#), [Lebanon](#), [Maldives](#), [Mongolia](#), [Morocco](#), [New Zealand](#), [Niger](#), [Norway](#), [Philippines](#), [Rwanda](#), [Slovakia](#), [South Africa](#), [Sri Lanka](#), [Switzerland](#), [Tonga](#), [Turkey](#), [United States of America](#), [Zambia](#), and [Zimbabwe](#) [login required for these links].

[Read more](#)

Five things every admissions officer should know



UK ENIC's Research, Data and Insights team have expert knowledge that helps ensure the information in our database of over 4,000 international qualifications remains up-to-date for members.

Research Manager Emma Kirby has created a useful list of five things every admissions officer should know about qualifications...

1. **No two qualifications are the same**

In many countries, for example, upper secondary education covers a much broader range of subjects than the A level does in the UK. But we would still compare international awards to the overall UK A level standard if the broader learning outcomes are similar.

This is why we always talk about qualification 'comparability' rather than 'equivalence'.

When UK ENIC compares an international secondary award to the UK A level, we essentially mean that the international award offers suitable preparation for UK undergraduate study.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming UK ENIC face-to-face training sessions



Booking is now open for the next UK ENIC face-to-face training sessions in Birmingham, London and Manchester (UK) over the next few months.

Our full day 'Introduction to international admissions' face-to-face sessions provide a concentrated and thorough introduction to the education system and qualifications of key countries.

Half-day, country-specific 'Spotlight' sessions provide a face-to-face overview of the structure of the education systems in these countries, with a focus on entry to school education, higher education and accreditation, as well as recent developments and changes.

Meanwhile, our half-day, face-to-face 'Combating education fraud' sessions are designed to meet the needs of those processing international applications for work or study, or those in credential evaluation roles.

[Read more](#)

Coming up: Free webinars for UK ENIC members this August and September

These free webinar sessions are exclusively for UK ENIC members only. Spaces are limited, so please register early to avoid disappointment. You will find more information and details of how to register below.

	Wednesday 13 August, 10am-11am (UK time) UK education system – introductory webinar This introductory webinar will cover various aspects of the UK education system – primarily, but not exclusively, focused on higher education – and has been designed to address common questions we receive from our members. This webinar is exclusive to UK ENIC members only. Book now
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	Wednesday 24 September, 10am-11am (UK time) Spotlight on Sweden – introductory webinar This session will give an overview of the secondary and higher education systems of Sweden, as well as the key bodies responsible for quality assurance in the country. This webinar is exclusive to UK ENIC members only. Book now
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Follow us for social media updates

The monthly UK ENIC newsletter aims to provide you with relevant and useful news, updates and announcements.

As it is issued at the end of each month, there are inevitably times when some information included here has already been provided to followers of our social media channels.

As a reminder, here are the main UK ENIC social media channels which offer followers useful updates: [UK ENIC X \(Twitter\)](#) and [UK ENIC Facebook](#).

We have also just launched our new [UK ENIC Linked In](#) channel – feel free to follow for updates.

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