

# GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE 2024

## Confirmed Speakers



**Stuart Smith**  
Chief Executive Officer, NCUK

Having undertaken many roles in the international education sector over the past 15 years, Stuart is a highly accomplished professional. He has consistently demonstrated strong leadership abilities and a keen strategic vision throughout his career. With a background in agency and in-house digital marketing, Stuart transitioned to senior roles in marketing, student recruitment, and partnership development in higher education. Stuart took on a senior role at Navitas and later led international engagement at the University of Hertfordshire, significantly increasing revenue and student numbers. During this time, Stuart established the university as a leading recruiter of international students in key markets, established 18 transnational education partnerships, and led the launch of a branch campus in Egypt.



**Professor Victoria O'Donnell**  
Chief Academic Officer, NCUK

Professor O'Donnell joined NCUK in 2023 and is responsible for learning, teaching, and assessment. With over 25 years of experience in higher education, she plays a pivotal role in designing, developing, and delivering NCUK's academic programs. Her responsibilities encompass ensuring the quality and alignment of programs with UK higher education standards and managing strong partnerships with universities within the NCUK network. As a Chartered Psychologist, Professor, and Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, Professor O'Donnell has made notable contributions to research in the psychological aspects of learning and teaching, contemporary higher education pedagogy, and the experiences of non-traditional students in higher education.



**Nicholas Cuthbert**  
Director of Insight, The Pie

Nick began his career with Nottingham Trent University in the UK in international student recruitment. He has gone on to a range of directorate and consultancy roles in the private sector before joining The PIE. He is a leading commentator on current trends in the higher education industry and co-host of the Tales from the Departure Lounge podcast.

**Agenda is subject to change**  
**More speaker announcements coming soon**

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**Dr Anthony Manning**

**Dean for Global and Lifelong Learning, University of Kent**

Dr. Anthony Manning is the Dean for Global and Lifelong Learning at the University of Kent. In this role, he oversees the development, implementation, and review of international and lifelong learning initiatives. His responsibilities encompass the internationalisation of the curriculum, leading internationalisation at home, creating pathways to higher education, and managing short courses, executive education, continuing professional development (CPD), degree apprenticeships, and online learning.



**Charley Robinson**

**Head of Global Mobility Policy, Universities UK International**

Charley Robinson has worked in international higher education since 2007, in roles covering student recruitment, partnerships and outward student mobility, and most recently at Goldsmiths, University of London where they led the international student recruitment and global opportunities teams. They spent four years on the British Universities International Liaison Association (BUILA) executive team, and chaired the China Regional Interest Group. Charley has a strong interest and extensive experience of working in China. They enjoy the complexity and variety of challenges that the job entails, and working collaboratively with highly expert and engaged colleagues and members.



**Rachel MacSween**

**Director of Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement, IDP Connect**

Rachel MacSween is the Director of Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement (International), UK & Europe at IDP Connect. Previously, Rachel held the roles Director of International Recruitment, Partnerships and Mobility at the University of York, where she has been a member of the IDP Connect Advisory Panel. She has also worked at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow and spent seven years with Navitas, where she worked in roles at Edinburgh Napier University and in Melbourne at La Trobe University.

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**Jacqui Jenkins**

**Global Programme Lead - International student mobility, British Council**

Jacqui is the Global Programme Lead for International Student Mobility at the British Council. She leads how the British Council works with those that influence prospective international students including agents, counsellors, pathway providers and sponsors. She oversees a global network of staff in the 40 countries that send more than 1000 new international students to the UK annually. Jacqui launched the UK's agent and counsellor training and engagement platform in December 2022, which has become an integral part of the UK's Agent Quality Framework. Jacqui has had an extensive career at the British Council and has been instrumental in setting up Going Global conference (2004-13), the global Study UK Alumni Awards (2013-17) and she was the education adviser the UK's Government GREAT Britain Campaign in Number 10. (2016-19).



**Oliver Jawara**

**Director, Nous Group**

Oliver has supported universities and education providers across the UK, Europe and Australia to develop international strategies, transnational education offers and international recruitment process improvements.



**Andy Howells**

**Chief Marketing Officer, NCUK**

Andy is Chief Marketing Officer at NCUK, a global pathway provider. He has worked in the sector for more than 15 years, leading his teams to multiple awards wins for marketing, campaign and events projects, including a PR Week Global award, a CASE Europe award and a CIPR Excellence Award.

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**Matt Dean**

**Executive Director, International, Aston University**

Matt leads Aston's global international strategy. Global engagement is one of the key points in the University's new strategy. Matt's directorate operates globally to promote Aston and welcomes the opportunity to engage with new and existing partners.



**Anne Marie Graham**

**Chief Executive, UKCISA**

Anne Marie Graham has been Chief Executive of UKCISA since 2019. She joined from the Association of Commonwealth Universities, she was Director of Chevening, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's flagship global scholarship scheme. Previously, Anne Marie was Head of Outward Mobility and Assistant Director, Programmes at Universities UK International, where she led on several significant programme and projects promoting international mobility, including scholarships, TNE and outward mobility. As Head of Skills, Business and Adult Learning at the National Centre for Languages, she directed the development of new national standards in translation and interpreting, in support of the Government's Routes into Languages programme.



**Chris Andrewartha**

**Chief Information Officer, NCUK**

Chris is a seasoned and accomplished CIO/CTO/Technology Director, recognized for the ability to build and steer high-performing teams towards remarkable achievements. With a proven track record in spearheading digitisation and transformation initiatives, Chris excels in catalysing growth while securing substantial cost reductions and orchestrating successful turnarounds. Chris' expertise lies in effectively leading business-wide change, embedding robust operational models through a clear vision, and strategic planning. Chris is adept at collaborating with key stakeholders to mitigate risks and realize goals, ensuring the alignment of technology strategies with business objectives. Chris' leadership is marked by fostering empowered environments and driving results by developing dynamic and efficient teams.

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