

UKNARIC19 workshop sessions

Our **3** colour-coded workshop themes for UKNARIC19



1

Suitability, standards, control

Considerations of entry thresholds and comparability of international qualifications have evolved into a broader focus on evaluating and understanding preparedness and readiness for further study. Getting this right can support entry into new markets, assist progression rates, maintain and raise standards, and mesh with your compliance and control systems.

2

Opportunities: now and future

Over-dependence on one or a small number of countries for collaborations and recruitment presents risks in the current political, trade, and diplomatic turbulence. More than ever, the exploration and establishment of activity in new territories, and a willingness to do things in new ways, is essential to diversify, spread risk, and maximise the opportunities available.

3

Education and knowledge as ambassadors

International education is increasingly talked of as 'knowledge diplomacy' – a kind of 'soft power' in itself, and also part of the larger picture of how a country projects itself globally. Knowing your institution's brand and its culture and values, considering how these can be harnessed to advantage, and understanding how these play out in different countries and contexts – these all contribute to building and promoting a confident position in uncertain times.

Choose your workshop sessions

Monday 4 November (day 1)

Morning – slot 1 – 11.15-12.10

Demystifying Admissions - Jude King, Associate Director, Admissions, University of Liverpool

Theme 1

'Do we accept this qualification?' This is the question that most managers in Admissions hear a lot of the time. Can you always answer that question? What happens when you can't? This workshop will demonstrate the processes that the University of Liverpool have for reviewing new academic qualifications and how we decide from all the different types of English-language qualifications what the University will accept, both academically and from a UKVI perspective.

Opportunities in India: India's new education vision - Manjula Rao, British Council India and Dr Shakila Shamsu, Officer on Special Duty, Higher Education, India's Ministry of Human Resource Development

Theme 2

'Education is a national agenda and is the catalytic tool that can transform the future of our children and youth.' These are the opening words of the India's draft New National Education Policy. By 2020 India will be the youngest country in the world and the draft policy aims to make India a knowledge superpower. The policy also presents many opportunities for international partnerships and highlights the benefits of working with Indian universities. The recently announced changes to post-study-work in the UK have sparked much interest from India into studying in the UK, but there are many more opportunities for engagement.

Senior representatives from the Indian ministry of education will introduce the vision of India's new education system and colleagues from the British Council in India will highlight the opportunities available, and explore the potential of the untapped audience in the 40+ cities which have a population in excess of 1 million.

New international education strategy in relation to TNE - Aisling Conboy, International Higher Education Specialist, Department for International Trade (DIT)

Theme 2

Aisling Conboy is the DIT's TNE specialist. This session will look at the new DfE/DIT international education strategy, which is aiming for a big expansion of the UK's 'education exports', and the part that TNE can play in increasing international activity – at the institutional level, but also as part of a bigger UK international education offer. The most promising countries and prospects for TNE initiatives will be explored.

How Brexit could affect professionally accredited programmes delivered in the UK - Zara Green, Centre for Professional Qualifications

Theme 1

This session will discuss the future recognition of professional qualifications and accredited professional degrees in Europe and beyond, for both academic and professional purposes. Brexit will bring changes. Guidance on ways forward to facilitate the recognition of these qualifications will be provided. With ongoing uncertainty, this workshop will explore methods of overcoming recognition challenges and draw together ideas from participants on how this can be achieved.

Branding Beyond Borders: taking your institution's brand international - Dave Vann, ABA

Theme 3

So you think you have a strong brand. One that's appropriate to your market, relevant for your audience and reflective of your offering. But what happens when those foundations shift; when you change from being a UK brand to a global one?

Using a combination of storytelling and brand principles, this session takes an honest look at the trip hazards of taking a single market brand to new markets and explores how education institutions can navigate these challenges and successfully build a brand beyond its current borders.

The aim of this session is to give leaders insights and practical examples as they set out on the journey of taking their national brand global.

A new era of mobility in Asia-Pacific - Dr Libing Wang, Senior Programme Specialist in Higher Education, Chief of Section for Educational Innovations and Skills Development (EISD), UNESCO Bangkok

Theme 2

There are important developments in the Asia-Pacific region in skills mobility and internationalisation, with a number of countries now signed up to the Tokyo Convention. The recent Tokyo Convention Committee in Bangkok saw the official launch of the Asia-Pacific Network of National Information Centres (APNNIC) which will help promote recognition practices and improve mobility in the region. This also advances progress towards a Global Recognition Convention. These developments will be discussed by Dr Libing Wang, who is joining us from Bangkok, where he is Chief of Educational Innovation and Skills Development at the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Bureau.

Monday 4 November (day 1)

Morning – slot 2 – 12.15-12.45

Immigration and compliance update - Tijen Ahmet, Shakespeare Martineau

Theme 1

Tijen Ahmet, Legal Director and leading immigration expert from Shakespeare Martineau, provides an update on the latest developments in the UK's immigration system. Due to the evolving nature of the UK immigration rules, onerous obligations from the UKVI transferred to sponsoring universities and colleges, since when added responsibilities for compliance have brought further complexities. This session will focus on the latest compliance duties and issues and discusses ways in which universities, colleges and professional bodies can overcome the challenges.

Understanding student suitability and readiness - creative use of UK NARIC's International Grade Comparisons - UK NARIC

Theme 1

UK NARIC's International Grade Comparisons (IGC) is a vital tool in helping universities and colleges better understand the suitability of applicants. This practical session demonstrates how to use the online database creatively, in conjunction with International Comparisons, in order to interpret effectively applicants' qualifications and grades, and make informed decisions about whether international candidates meet the requirements of a course.

Verification and protecting yourself against fraud: best practice - UK NARIC and Qualification Check

Theme 1

Education fraud is a huge concern to universities, colleges, employers and professional bodies. UK NARIC and Qualification Check have developed the Qualification Checked at Source (QCAS) verification service to help safeguard against this growing danger. This session introduces the service, looks at some best practice techniques in fraud prevention, and highlights how verification can be integrated into application processes.

Opportunities amid global trade turbulence - Shanella Rajanayagam, Trade Economist, HSBC

Theme 2

The world is facing exceptional trade turbulence. Ongoing US-China trade tensions, Brexit uncertainty, and new protectionist measures are affecting the global economic outlook. But trade liberalisation is advancing in certain parts of the world as Asian and European economies strike new trade deals. And looking out over the coming decade, the economic potential for emerging markets such as India and ASEAN is quite substantial. Factors such as demographic trends, technological catch up and the rise of the middle class present opportunities for trade expansion. Beyond this, technological advances are transforming how goods and services are traded. This session will provide a macro overview of the latest developments in global trade, where the risks and opportunities lie and future trade trends.

Streamline admissions and recognition processes through verified digital credentials - Simone Ravaoli, Director Strategic Partnership, Digitary, and Anthony Manahan, Associate Director - Admissions, University of Melbourne via video link

Theme 1/Theme 2

This workshop will look at a real-world solution for streamlining international student admissions, from the University of Melbourne. The University has collaborated with diverse partners to set a precedent in implementing 'portability of recognition' principles. The session will illustrate how international applicants are able to obtain a verified digital record of their academic history in a digital wallet and how the university is able to integrate the discrete data into their admissions systems.

Recognising student achievement from professional training programmes - Katherine Latta, Centre for Professional Qualifications and Dr Stefan Sant, MQRIC, ENIC-NARIC of Malta

Theme 1/Theme 2

In this workshop, UK NARIC and MQRIC, the ENIC-NARIC of Malta, examine the PQProfile. This has been designed by the cross-Europe ACEPT (Allocating Credit to European Professional Training Programmes) project team to enable better understanding of professional training programmes and whether and how professional training can be used for entry to higher level qualifications. The PQProfile can also be used as a tool to examine and assess the exemptions that can be applied to course applicants.

Monday 4 November (day 1)

Afternoon – slot 3 – 14.00-14.55

Diversifying international recruitment - Grace Ning Guan, University of Sydney; and Nancy Cooke, Salford University

Theme 2/Theme 3

Increasing uncertainty in the relationship between the West and China could bring a reduction in the number of international students from this market. How can universities and college diversify their intake, reduce over-exposure, and spread their risks? This workshop looks at the issue from an Australian perspective. Grace Ning Guan, University of Sydney, and Nancy Cooke, Salford University, consider ways in which admissions, recruitment and marketing teams might be able to widen their intake.

Best practice in TNE - panel featuring Dr Vangelis Tsiligiris, Aisling Conboy, Dr Vicky Lewis, and Vincenzo Raimo

Theme 1/Theme 2

Transnational education panel - an interactive panel chaired by Dr Vangelis Tsiligiris, Nottingham Trent Business School and founder of the TNE Hub, and featuring Dr Vicky Lewis, independent higher education consultant, Aisling Conboy, TNE specialist at the Department for International Trade, and Vincenzo Raimo, former Pro-Vice Chancellor (Global Engagement) at Reading University, and now of Unilodgers.

How IELTS sets and maintains the highest levels of security and helps you comply with immigration requirements - IELTS

Theme 1/Theme 2

This session will give you an understanding of the extensive security procedures which apply to all aspects of the IELTS test globally, as well as an appreciation of how those using IELTS as a gateway to higher education, professional registration, immigration and employment can help maintain the exceptionally high level of security that IELTS enjoys, through vigilant test report form verification. The session will also include interactive elements and information about exciting developments in IELTS.

Supporting the international student experience - Julie Allen, Director of Policy & Services, UKCISA

Theme 2

Web video information supporting direct entry Chinese students, an international student food project, international students' experience of the private rented sector: these are just some of the projects and research topics which have been supported by the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) Grants Scheme to support innovation in international student support. Since 2015, UKCISA has provided funding for almost 60 pilot projects and research. This session will highlight effective practice to support the international student experience and share recommendations for applying the learning at your institution.

Creating a transferable organisational culture with students at the heart - Alistair Bullen, ABA

Theme 3

Culture is the heartbeat of a thriving educational establishment. But how do you go about cultivating the 'right' culture? And how do you approach fixing a broken one? Using a proven methodology adopted by fast-growing education brands, this session unpacks how leaders can identify and intentionally grow the desired culture within their organisation - a culture that puts students at its heart and takes all staff on a journey. The aim of this session is to give delegates both a greater understanding and access to practical tools as they set about creating a roadmap to their desired culture.

Effective recognition measures for refugees - Fatma Ozturk - Council of Higher Education, Turkey

Theme 1/Theme 2

Millions of people are displaced from their homeland because of war, invasion or annexation conditions. Among these people, thousands of HEI students and qualified graduates are looking for a better future in a foreign country. Continuing higher education or entering the labour market is possible only if qualifications are recognised. Hence, recognition is one of the vital components of social inclusion in a foreign country. Turkey receives some of the highest numbers of refugees leading to thousands of recognition applications for access to higher education or professional life. This session provides an opportunity to exchange views and discuss common standards and processes for the recognition of refugees' skills and qualifications.

Monday 4 November (day 1)

Afternoon – slot 4 – 15.30-16.25

Why do we have so many English language test providers? - an interactive panel featuring David Booth, PTE Academic; Peter Skillen, Study Group; Julie Allen, UKCISA; and UK NARIC on the EMI Quality Mark.

Theme 1/Theme 2

English language proficiency is a core part of many application processes whether it be to study, work or practise; but why are there so many English language tests and do they succeed in meeting the particular needs of different target markets? This interactive discussion panel considers the requirements of different sectors and reflects upon whether 'general tests' are fit for purpose.

Examining models of Tier 4 compliance - Peter Yetton, Glasgow Caledonian University

Theme 1

As a Tier 4 sponsor, institutions are required to act in accordance with Home Office policy. Across a range of UK-based institutions, a variety of models of implementing compliance have evolved.

This interactive workshop will look at some of the key models used, identifying where responsibilities lie in practice, and the challenges and pitfalls associated with these.

Successful Marketing into China - Adam Foster and Kelvin Chan, East West Marketing

Theme 3

A presentation by Kelvin Chan and Adam Foster from East West, a Chinese Marketing agency based in Edinburgh & Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China.

This workshop will consist of two halves. Adam will present a walk-through of a successful marketing campaign carried out for a UK university. Covering areas from establishing a Chinese brand, messaging and the digital strategy tailored to reach the right prospects. Campaign results and insights will also be included.

The second half will be presented by Kelvin Chan and look at a more holistic view on the latest thinking from a governmental level on the direction Chinese education is taking and how this influences student decision making for choosing where to study in the West. Highlights will include, who are the influencers and their importance on students, parents, peers, teachers, and universities. Kelvin currently leads on a number of projects with the Sichuan Chinese Education Bureau who represent over 100 Universities / 1.3 million students in the region and will also talk about live case studies around what Sichuan Universities are doing, looking at the good and bad including key learnings.

Recruitment needs - how do regulatory bodies react? - The General Medical Council and The Centre for Professional Qualifications

Theme 1/Theme 2

This discussion will explore how competent authorities (such as regulatory and/or professional bodies) have reacted to recruitment challenges, such as through relaxing admission requirements, providing bridging programmes and top-up courses, providing alternative entrance pathways or proposing changes to accredited qualification pathways. With anticipated future challenges in recruitment, this session will explore how stakeholders can react to resolve these issues and how education providers can be part of the solution.

Soft power and how to leverage it for international impact - Paul Brummell, Head of Soft Power and External Affairs Department, FCO

Theme 3

International education partnerships and 'knowledge diplomacy' are important agents of global impact. Paul Brummell, Head of Soft power and External Affairs at the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, will discuss soft power and how to leverage it.

New research findings from Syria: the state of play in Syrian Higher Education - Anasse Bouhlal, PhD, Programme Specialist (Higher Education), UNESCO Beirut office

Theme 1/Theme 2

UNESCO Regional Office for Education in the Arab States (UNESCO Beirut Office, UBO) and UK NARIC have undertaken a joint research project into the current situation of Syrian higher education, post-2011. The first critical review of its kind, this joint project is intended to produce a fresh, up-to-date report on the state of play of higher education provision in Syria and the recognition of Syrian higher education qualifications related to the Lisbon Recognition Convention. The joint project included field missions in Syria, engagement with the stakeholders and large scale consultations with wide-ranging audiences. The draft report will be available in November 2019 and the findings of this project will be disseminated widely to the outside world. This session presents the initial findings of this important research.

Tuesday 5 November (day 2)

Morning – slot 1 – 11.15-12.10

Compliance panel - an interactive discussion panel on Tier 4 futures

Theme 1/Theme 2

New immigration and visa policies and new opportunities for universities and colleges are on the horizon. We take a look at potential Tier 4 futures and what these may mean for the sector. Lots of opportunity for discussion and Q&A with a panel of T4 experts.

Education in China: briefing and recent updates - UK NARIC

Theme 1/Theme 2

China remains a key market and a thorough understanding of its vast education system is essential for all those working in international admissions and recruitment. This UK NARIC briefing goes through the key features and things you need to know, and delivers an update on recent changes and developments.

When 'MyBest' translates into 'your best': combining English proficiency scores for better student outcomes - Sandy Bhangal, Associate Director, ETS

Theme 1/Theme 2

English proficiency is an important part of the university admission process. A fresh look at English scores can attract a more diverse yet qualified student pool. The recent launch of 'MyBest' Scores assists institutions looking to recruit the best mix of international student applicants who will succeed in an environment where Academic English proficiency matters. Delegates will learn about the research behind this scoring innovation in language assessment, and market insights that led to a better test experience including a shortened test, availability of afternoon test sessions as well as a shorter wait period for retest. We will also look at how to interpret 'MyBest' Scores. There will be ample time for questions and discussion.

Level 3 - 5 BTEC qualifications and how they can prepare students for HE - Pearson

Theme 1/Theme 2

Pearson BTECs are high quality, hands-on qualifications grounded in the real world of work. They are delivered to over 1 million learners, in 70 countries, across various specialist subjects each year. They range from levels 1 through to 7 and can vary in size. As well as having a strong career focused element, BTEC National, International and Higher National (Level 3 & 4/5) qualifications can be used to apply for university entry. During the session, we will be covering the purpose, development and equivalence for these qualifications and explore some of the work Pearson is doing to ensure BTEC learners are aware of the progression pathways available to them.

Global social responsibility in HE: who's doing what and why? Building your social responsibility USP - Dr Vicky Lewis, International HE Strategy Consultant

Theme 3

This session will explore the growing emphasis that some HEIs are placing on making social contributions at a global level, highlighting specific examples of how this helps to build reputation while supporting the common good.

Planning your international 'export' strategy: reducing risk; and new opportunities in international TVET - Jonathan Ledger, TVET specialist, Department for International Trade (DIT)

Theme 2

This session will help providers 'de-risk' their thinking around education export and will provide insights into the UK's export and trade strategy. Case studies demonstrating export excellence and learning about the current opportunities available in the skills export market will also be covered. Opportunities for discussion and Q&A.

Tuesday 5 November (day 2)

Morning – slot 2 – 12.15-12.45

The White Paper and the future of student immigration - Adam Haxell, Senior Parliamentary Officer, Million+

Theme 1/Theme 2/Theme 3

A discussion on the current student migration system, the changes we know about, and a few changes that we might not. Home Office policy on student immigration has been volatile and particularly reactive to political trends. Just as the era of harsh penalties and clamping down appears to be over, and more interesting ideas are being discussed, will the new Prime Minister and new Home Secretary mean yet more change for this important part of university sector and major export industry? What should be done, what will be done, and how can universities remain influential in this discussion?

Baccalaureate style qualifications and preparedness for higher education - UK NARIC, International Baccalaureate

Theme 1

This session looks at the issue of 'preparedness' and 'readiness' for higher education and examines how well 'baccalaureate style' qualifications are able to prepare students for entry into HE. Delegates will learn how UK NARIC evaluates such qualifications and will also hear from International Baccalaureate.

T-Levels - when, where, what, why, how? - Debbie Potts and Seb Ross of the Department of Education

Theme 1/Theme 2

This session will provide an overview of the new T-Level qualification, which will be introduced in England from September 2020 onwards. We will hear the background to the development of T-Levels from the Department for Education speakers, and about how T-Levels will be delivered. We will also explore how the introduction of this new type of qualification may impact UK NARIC qualification comparabilities.

Certified translations in a blink! A.I.-driven translations of qualifications - Mónica Camino Moreno, CEO Dialexy and UK NARIC

Theme 1/Theme 2

UK NARIC and Dialexy are combining their sector, technology and language expertise to develop an AI-driven, certified translation service for international admissions departments. Technology is at the heart of this service, with the development of an interface which can recognise common qualification certificates and transcript templates for school and degree level awards. Institutions will be able to provide students with access to a low-cost, user-friendly, quick, certified translation service; enhancing the student application process and experience. This session will give information on the development plans for this new service and show how the innovative technology works.

'China Council': UK NARIC supporting your partnerships and progression with colleges in China - recruitment opportunities via progression

Theme 2/ Theme 3

UK NARIC has established an alliance with China's largest college network (over 1200 colleges) to support new links with the UK. In China this is being promoted as the UK-China Council. China's colleges are actively seeking partnerships globally and in the UK and, in particular, progression routes for their students. This internationalisation drive is supported by the Chinese government. In this session, you can find out more about the kind of partnerships and progression arrangements being looked for, and how UK NARIC can help you connect with Chinese colleges and develop these.

Improve student engagement, celebrate achievement: open badges and digital badges - Lambros Pardale, the UK National Europass Centre

Theme 1/Theme 2

'Aligning Badges, ESCO and the Certificate Supplement' (ABECS) aims to combine the best attributes of electronic transcripts, the Certificate Supplement and ESCO to incorporate them in a modern, portable, verified, shareable, visible, electronic package - an Open Badge. This session will highlight how this project can help improve the mobility of individuals and also increase awareness and understanding of qualifications.

Tuesday 5 November (day 2)

Afternoon – slot 3 – 13.45-14.40

Brexit update

Theme 1/Theme 2/Theme 3

First it was 29 March; then 31 October; but what is the situation now? This session will have a legal and policy focus and will give analysis and insight into the Brexit situation and what it means for UKNARIC19 delegates. The Brexit position is still shifting daily - precise content and speakers will be confirmed closer to the conference.

Establishing GCSE comparability - Pearson Edexcel and BTEC, IB Middle Years, UK NARIC

Theme 1

GCSE level qualifications are playing an increasingly significant role within admissions to university and college. This session considers the comparability of international qualifications to GCSE level. More specifically, the discussion examines the IB Middle Years programme and Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs and how they equip students to be able to move on to their next challenge.

Making your offer distinctive: discussion panel - Gecko Engage, PeopleCert, Unilodgers

Theme 2

In the increasingly competitive world of student recruitment it is sometimes the non-core elements of the offer that sway the decision. This interactive session looks at innovations and novel services that can make your proposition slicker, more modern, and more in-tune with applicant and student needs. The discussion examines how universities and colleges can use technology to improve pre-application engagement; how offering additional professionally recognised training can improve employability; and how providing safe and high-standard accommodation via a modern platform can all help improve the overall offer to potential students.

Opportunities across Africa - Stuart Rennie, SJRennie Consulting

Theme 2

A booming population is putting underfunded African universities under strain. Yes Africa has challenges and risks but as that population booms the opportunities to embed, engage and develop a strong strategic African presence are huge. We'll look at the numbers, the economic opportunities and we'll focus on new growth opportunities across the Sub-Continent bringing in real live success stories from the UK, Canada and Australia. We will show you how to empower your organisation to manage the risk across Africa.

Anything you can do, A.I. can do better? Automating assessment - PTE Academic

Theme 1/Theme 2

This presentation will cover how PTE Academic offers comprehensive support to test takers undergoing international applications, and to admissions and recruitment teams keen to guide and assist international students embarking on studying a course in an English context. We will demonstrate why A.I. should be embraced; how the use of technology in assessment provides greater confidence in applicants, preparedness, and highlight how PTE Academic can help institutions reach cohorts you may not currently reach. This presentation will show admissions and international recruitment staff how PTE Academic can help you make decisions quicker and with greater confidence, grow your recruitment into new territories and access new cohorts in existing markets.

Understanding (Higher) Education policies and how they affect you - Dr Richard Budd, University of Lancaster

Theme 3

There are a number of common trends in (higher) education policy worldwide, namely globalisation, 'marketisation', 'commercialisation', and 'privatisation'. They often occur in concert, but how they play out at the national level varies for a combination of social, political, and economic reasons. There is also variation in their interpretation and effects at the organisational (eg school or university) level and their precise effects are therefore not uniform. This interactive session will involve: exploring these trends individually as well as how they overlap; understanding the rationales that underpin them; examining their effects on education generally; and discussing how they appear in our everyday working lives.

Tuesday 5 November (day 2)

Afternoon – slot 4 – 14.45-15.40

Indian Standard XII: assessing the suitability of Indian students for undergraduate study in the UK -
Andy Castro, UK NARIC

Theme 1/Theme 2

Applications from India are expected to rise significantly as a result of the recently-announced changes to student visa rules. This session provides a comprehensive look at the Indian school leaving qualification, the Standard XII, with a view to helping institutions assess the suitability of Indian students for undergraduate study in the UK.

The session contextualises the regulation and structure of the Standard XII; explains the rationale behind UK NARIC's evaluation of the award (referencing examples of curriculum content and examination papers); outlines key information on the most popular central and state boards, including typical subject combinations, grading systems, language essentials and documentation; and includes the latest student performance data and typical admission requirements.

The session will conclude with some pointers on making the best use of UK NARIC data when processing applications from India, and an opportunity for delegates to have their most burning questions about Standard XII answered.

Making the most of your UK NARIC membership - Collette Stirzaker, UK NARIC

Theme 1/Theme 2

This practical workshop will focus on UK NARIC's data and services, that can be used to directly support your admissions and recruitment activities. This session features advice and tips on using the whole range of our resources, including our Trans-National Education (TNE) knowledge base, our online Certificate Bank and the Member Enquiry Service.

The New Europass: from mobility tool to life-long learning platform - Lambros Pardale, National Co-ordinator, The UK National Europass Centre

Theme 1/Theme 2

One of the unique selling points of Europass is the internationally recognised format. Nonetheless, it is clear that end users require increased personalisation and the opportunity to showcase their skills and experience beyond the traditional paper CV. The new Europass has been simplified and modernised for the digital age. This session will highlight the changes to Europass and how it meets the needs of end users, employers and providers.

Education in Latin America taster session - UK NARIC

Theme 1/Theme 2

This session gives an overview of the structure of the education systems in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Mexico. The session also includes practical guidance on understanding educational documentation from these countries as well as glossaries to assist with interpreting original language documents.