CONNECT:
UK–China Transnational Education Symposium

Enhancing learning, teaching & student experience for a sustainable, innovative future.

Register here

Programme

4-5th December 2025

#ConnectTNE2025

Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University 西交利物浦大学

TNE Institute

University of Glasgow

University of Glasgow
Glasgow College, UESTC
2013

www.tneinstitute.com/conference

Conference organising committee

Dr Wasim Ahmad
Programme Director & Senior Lecturer in Autonomous
Systems and Connectivity
University of Glasgow

Dr Mark Edwards
Director of Partnerships
TNE Institute

Dr Sajjad Hussain
Associate Professor
Glasgow College UESTC

Rebecca Wakelin
Director, Educational Development Unit
Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

Dr Cheryl Yu
Director of Programmes
TNE Institute

Message from the Organising Committee

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the organising committee, we warmly welcome you to *CONNECT: UK–China Transnational Education Symposium 2025*. On 4–5 December 2025, we are delighted to bring together colleagues, practitioners, and guest speakers from across the TNE sector to explore emerging trends, shared challenges, and new opportunities within UK–China transnational education. Across these two days, we have curated a series of thought-provoking sessions - including presentations, panels, and practice-sharing discussions - designed to spark dialogue, deepen understanding, and strengthen collaboration.

As the TNE landscape continues to evolve, it is increasingly important for those shaping and delivering transnational programmes to come together, exchange insights, and reflect on how best to manage growth while staying true to the core purpose of our work: enhancing student success and supporting faculty development. We hope this symposium provides a space to learn from the diverse approaches within our community, gain new perspectives from partner institutions, and build relationships that enrich our collective efforts.

We are especially pleased to host CONNECT Symposium 2025 as a fully online event, enabling broad and inclusive participation across regions and time zones. While delivered virtually, the programme is designed to retain depth of engagement through interactive sessions, focused discussions, and collaborative exchanges. We hope this format supports meaningful dialogue and fosters long-term partnerships across our global TNE community

Thank you for joining us for what promises to be an engaging and insightful symposium. We look forward to your contributions and to working together as we shape the future of global higher education in the age of Gen AI.

Organising Committee

CONNECT Symposium 2025

Contents

Day 1 agenda

Thursday 4th December:
4pm-7pm Beijing, 8am-11am UK

Time	Activity	Speaker(s)
4.00 - 4.05PM	**Opening remarks**	Dr Mark Edwards (TNE Institute)
4.05 - 4.30PM	**Keynote presentation** The Future of UK-China TNE	Prof. Tao Chen (Surrey)
4.30 - 5.10PM	**Presentations** a) Curriculum Co-Design Across Borders b) The Future of Quality in TNE	a) Dr Wasim Ahmad (Glasgow) & Dr Cheryl Yu (TNE Institute) b) Dr. Fabrizio Trifiro (THE, INQAAHE)
5.10 - 5.20PM	**BREAK**	
5.20 - 6.10PM	**Panel discussion: Navigating the UK and China dual educational system**	Dr Rebecca Wakelin (Chair, XJTLU) Dr. Md Jakir Hossain (Chester) Dr Maged Refat Fakirah (Oxford Brookes College, Chengdu UoT) Dr. Sami Ahmed (Heriot-Watt) Professor Daguo Li (Reading)
6.10 - 6.50PM	**Practice sharing sessions** a) Practical Approaches to Using AI for Teaching, Assessment, Feedback & Learning Analytics b) Developing Leadership Pathways in TNE: Supporting Academic & Professional Growth c) Quality Assurance in TNE and Student Engagement d) Navigating the UK & China dual educational system	a) Dr Neil McMillan (Glasgow) b) Dr Lindsay Jones (QMUL) c) Yanan Wang (XJTLU) d) Alex Boyle (Oxford Brookes College, Chengdu UoT)
6.50 - 7.00PM	**Closing remarks**	Dr Mark Edwards

Day 2 agenda

Friday 5th December:
3pm-6pm Beijing, 7am-10am UK

Time	Activity	Speaker(s)
3.00 - 3.05PM	**Opening remarks**	Dr Wasim Ahmad (Glasgow)
3.05 - 3.30PM	**Keynote presentation** Managing TNE Growth	Prof. Muhammad Ali Imran (Glasgow)
3.30 - 4.10PM	**Presentations:** a) The use of Generative AI in teaching, learning & assessment in TNE b) Digital Transformation in TNE	a) Dr Ling Ma (QMUL) b) Dr. Olivia Yiqun Sun (XJTLU)
4.10 - 4.20PM	**BREAK**	
4.20 - 5.10PM	**Panel discussion:** Integrating Research Engagement & Industry Collaboration in TNE to Advance Staff Development and Student Employability	Dr Wasim Ahmad (Chair, Glasgow) Dr Sumara Khan (Coventry, London) Dr. Adnan Zahid (Heriot-Watt, UK) Dr Joojo Walker (Oxford Brookes College, Chengdu UoT) Dr Peter CY YAU (Glasgow, Singapore)
5.10 - 5.50PM	**Practice sharing sessions** a) *Innovative Student Support Systems in TNE Contexts* b) *Enhancing Student Belonging and Identity in Transnational Learning Communities* c) *Navigating Classrooms and Cultural Dynamics in China* d) *Building Bridges: Initiating and Sustaining UK-China TNE Partnerships*	a) Mr. Mingda Ma & Lang Hu (Glasgow College-UESTC, Chengdu) b) Dr Colette Mair, Dr Shazia Ahmed (Glasgow) Qiyue Wang, and Dr Rebecca Wakelin (XJTLU) c) Dr Sannia Mareta (Nottingham, Ningbo) d) Larry Li (British Council, China)
5.50 - 6.00PM	**Closing remarks**	Dr Sajjad Hussain (Glasgow College-UESTC, Chendgu)

Keynote speaker: Day 1

The Future of UK-China TNE

Professor Tao Chen
Associate Vice-President (International),
University of Surrey

Professor Tao Chen currently serves as the Associate Vice-President (International) at the University of Surrey, UK. He is also a Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering. Prof. Chen received his Bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering from Tsinghua University, China, and later obtained his PhD in Chemical Engineering from Newcastle University, UK. After completing his doctoral studies, he conducted postdoctoral research at Newcastle University and held academic positions at Nanyang Technological University (Singapore) and Chongqing University (China). He joined the University of Surrey in 2011.

Prof. Chen focuses on digital chemical engineering. with research interests spanning process modelling, model-based product design, process control and optimisation, and applications in biomedicine. He has published more than 200 high-impact journal articles and secured over £8 million in research funding. His leadership and research have made significant contributions to advancing data-driven innovation in chemical and process engineering.

Keynote speaker: Day 2

Managing TNE Growth

Prof Muhammad Ali Imran
Head of James Watt School of Engineering, University of Glasgow

Prof Muhammad is a globally recognized expert in wireless communication systems. He graduated from Imperial College London with MSc Distinction and PhD. He is the Head of the James Watt School of Engineering and also leads the Communications Sensing and Imaging research hub of over 100 researchers in areas ranging from advanced wireless technologies to energy-efficient communications.

Prof. Imran and his team spearhead global advancements in the area of communication systems. His pioneering contributions in self-organized cellular networks and energy-efficient communications are widely cited and adapted in standards. In addition to his research leadership, Prof. Imran has played a pioneering role in establishing and building one of the largest and most successful UK–China Transnational Education partnerships, which has produced over 3,000 graduates in Electrical and Electronic Engineering. These graduates have gone on to secure positions in leading multinational companies and pursue higher education at top 20 ranked international universities. Leading this prominent transnational education initiative, he represents Scottish Higher Education internationally.

With over 25 years of academic and industry expertise, he holds pivotal roles in multi-million-pound projects and technical bodies at the international level. Additionally, he serves as a consultant for international projects, fora, and industrial firms on self-organized networks and 5G/6G technology applications.

Contributors: *Day 1 presentations*

Curriculum Co-Design Across Borders

Dr Wasim Ahmad
Programme Director & Senior Lecturer in Autonomous Systems and Connectivity,
University of Glasgow

Wasim Ahmad is a Programme Director and Senior Lecturer in Autonomous Systems and Connectivity at the James Watt School of Engineering, University of Glasgow. He received his PhD from the University of Surrey in 2011. Before joining Glasgow in 2015, he held Lecturer positions at the University of Hull (2013–2015) and the University of Surrey (2011–2013). He is a member of the Communication, Sensing and Imaging (CSI) research hub, where his work focuses on applications of signal processing and machine learning in sound modelling, human-robot interaction, machine vision, brain-computer interfaces, and assistive and healthcare technologies.

Alongside his technical research, Dr Ahmad maintains a strong pedagogical portfolio centred on transnational engineering education, immersive and robotics-enhanced learning, collaborative online international learning, student-staff partnerships, problem-based learning, and teamworking skills development. He has led several major teaching-innovation initiatives across the University of Glasgow's TNE programmes, including remote robotics laboratories, AI-supported learning, and curriculum co-creation.

He has received multiple distinctions, including the University of Glasgow Teaching Excellence Award (2021), Senior Fellowship of Recognising Excellence in Teaching (RET), and best paper awards at IEEE CyberSciTech 2019 and IEEE IROS 2023. He is also the recipient of several prestigious funding awards, including the University of Glasgow Chancellor's Fund, the EPSRC IAA award for the RoboGuide project, and multiple Learning and Teaching Development Fund grants related to robotics integration, student engagement, and international collaborative e-learning.

Contributors: *Day 1 presentations*

Curriculum Co-Design Across Borders

Dr Cheryl Yu
Director of Programmes,
TNE Institute

With 17 years of experience in international higher education (HE) across the UK and China, Dr Cheryl Yu is a respected practitioner-researcher dedicated to advancing equitable, sustainable, and high-impact global partnerships. As Director of Programmes at the TNE Institute, she leads the design and delivery of the sector-leading Level 7 Certificate in Teaching, Learning and Professional Practice for TNE, a flagship staff-development programme for TNE professionals.

Dr Yu's research focuses on the internationalisation of HE, knowledge diplomacy, & the evolving landscape of UK-China and EU-China partnerships. She has published widely, including the co-edited volume Critical Reflections on the Internationalisation of HE in the Global South. Her latest collaborative journal article examines knowledge diplomacy and the implications of de-risking strategies for EU–China HE cooperation.

In addition to her academic work, Dr Yu serves on the Speciality Committee on TNE of the Association of British Chinese Professors (ABCP) and is Secretary of the Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding (SACU), an organisation founded in 1965 by renowned British scholar Joseph Needham to foster mutual understanding between the UK and China.

Contributors: *Day 1 presentations*

The Future of Quality in TNE

Dr Fabrizio Trifiró

Programme Director, Education World Forum,
Times Higher Education & Board Director, INQAAHE

Dr. Fabrizio Trifiró is an international expert in quality assurance and international education. He is the Programme Director of the Education World Forum, the largest annual gathering of ministers of education, now part of Times Higher Education THE), and a Senior Advisor for TNE and QA for THE. Fabrizio also sits on the Board of Directors of the International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE).

Fabrizio worked for over 10 years with the UK Quality Assurance Agency for Higher (QAA), where he led the quality assurance of TNE, and strategic international engagement. More recently, he led on international stakeholder engagement and the recognition of TNE qualifications for UK ENIC, the national qualification recognition body. He also supported the Office for Students (OfS) in England in developing their international engagement strategy to support their oversight of English TNE.

Fabrizio is a senior consultant with the Hong Kong Council for the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) and acts as a reviewer for a range of international quality assurance bodies.

Fabrizio holds an integrated Master's degree in Philosophy and an MA in Human Rights and Humanitarian Interventions from the University of Bologna, a MSc in Comparative and Cross-Cultural Research Methods from the University of Sussex, and a PhD in Political Theory from the University of London.

Contributors: *Day 1 Panel discussions*
Navigating the UK and China dual educational system

Rebecca Wakelin (Chair)
Director, Educational Development Unit,
Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

Professor Daguo Li
Professor and Vice-Dean of NUIST Reading Academy,
University of Reading

Dr Daguo Li is a professor and the UK-based Vice-Dean (the UK lead) of the NUIST Reading Academy, a joint education institute (JEI) between the University of Reading and Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology (NUIST). He is also the Programme Co-Director of the University of Reading's joint MA in English Language Education with Guangdong University of Foreign Studies (GDUFS). Previously, he was Programme Director of residential courses in the UK for English language teacher groups from schools and education managers from universities across China sponsored by the China Scholarship Council (CSC) and the Ministry of Education. His research interests include transnational education, second language teaching and learning, and teachers' professional development. He also supervises doctoral students in these areas.

Dr Maged Refat Fakirah
Associate Professor,
Oxford Brookes College, Chengdu University of Technology

Maged Refat Fakirah is an Associate Professor in Computing at Oxford Brookes College, Chengdu University of Technology, contributing to UK–China transnational education programmes. He earned his PhD from the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China (UESTC) and completed a research internship at the Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies (HITS) in Germany. A TEFL-certified educator with a Postgraduate Certificate in International Education (PGCiE) from Staffordshire University, he integrates educational technologies to enhance online and blended learning. An IEEE member, his research spans visible light communications, vehicular networks, wireless optimisation, and high-performance computing. He has received multiple international awards for research excellence.

Contributors: *Day 1 Panel discussions*
Navigating the UK and China dual educational system

Dr. Md Jakir Hossain
Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Science, Business and Enterprise,
University of Chester

Dr. MD Jakir Hossain completed his Ph.D. in 2021 from the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, specializing in secure authentication protocol design. In 2022, he pursued a PGCiE from Staffordshire University. Dr. Hossain has made significant contributions in the fields of cybersecurity, wireless body area networks, cloud computing, and intrusion detection using AI. His expertise extends to IoT, quantum computing, and cyber threat detection, as demonstrated by his numerous research projects, independent studies, and group collaborations. Dr. Hossain has authored several high-impact manuscripts in IEEE Transactions, Elsevier, and Springer journals, achieving an impact factor of 71.04. He is also an active reviewer for prestigious journals and conferences. He had been working as a lecturer, senior lecturer, and assistant professor at Metropolitan University, Sylhet from 2012-2018. In 2021 he joined Oxford Brookes University and Chengdu University of Technology as an Associate Professor. In 2025, he joined University of Chester as a Senior Lecturer. He received different scholarships including the Chinese Government Scholarship for Ph.D. studies. He served as Co-CI for multiple research groups in China. He is active IEEE member. Dr. Hossain's research focuses on: Secure Authentication Protocols for diverse applications, Quantum Cryptography, and Cyber Threat Detection using AI.

Dr. Sami Ahmed
Lecturer in the School of Engineering & Physical Sciences,
Heriot-Watt University

Sami Ahmed Haider is a Lecturer in the School of Engineering & Physical Sciences at Heriot-Watt University, contributing to transnational education initiatives in China. His teaching and academic interests focus on electronics engineering, embedded systems, and digital hardware design, with a strong commitment to enhancing practical, industry-aligned engineering skills among students. Sami is actively involved in supporting collaborative learning environments across international campuses and continually works to strengthen academic partnerships that enable students to thrive in global STEM workplaces.

Contributors: *Day 1 Practice sharing sessions*

Practical Approaches to Using AI for Teaching, Assessment, Feedback & Learning Analytics

Dr Neil McMillan
*Lecturer in English for Academic Purposes,
University of Glasgow, Glasgow College, UESTC China*

Neil McMillan is a Lecturer in English for Academic Purposes at the University of Glasgow. His main role is to support the English teaching team and develop the EAP programme for engineering students at Glasgow College UESTC in Chengdu and Hainan, China. He is currently leading an AI literacies working group to develop guidance for students and teachers, and is setting up a Task-Based Needs Analysis project to inform wider curriculum renewal.

Developing Leadership Pathways in TNE: Supporting Academic & Professional Growth

Dr Lindsay Jones
*Head of Global Business Development,
Queen Mary University of London*

Dr. Lindsay Jones is Head of Global Business Development at Queen Mary University of London, UK. Lindsay's interest in international education began with ERASMUS Exchange Programme placements in Germany and the Netherlands. After completing her PhD, Lindsay held Postdoctoral Research Assistant posts in Ireland and the USA.

On returning to the UK, Lindsay took up a post at Manchester Business School Worldwide, managing degree programmes delivered in the Caribbean, Hong Kong, India, Singapore, New York and developing new business in China and the Gulf. At her previous role, Bangor University, Lindsay had been responsible for the operational management of TNE programmes, and her particular areas of expertise include business case development, in-country registration and approval, planning, strategy, financial modelling, due diligence and risk assessment.

Contributors: *Day 1 Practice sharing sessions*

Navigating the UK & China dual educational system

Alex Boyle
Oxford Brookes College, Chengdu University of Technology

Alex Boyle, a British education professional, brings a wealth of expertise to the field of higher education. Alex first came to China in 2006 and has dedicated his career to education ever since. Since joining CDUT in 2012, Alex quickly rose to prominence, becoming Programme Director in 2013. With a strong English language foundation as an IELTS examiner for the British Council and armed with an MBA and a Master's in Education, Alex has developed a comprehensive understanding of educational excellence for second language learners in China.

Alex's teaching portfolio spans diverse and impactful subjects, including Strategy, Emerging Economies, Knowledge Management, Ethics, Project Management, Leadership, Change Management, Creativity and Innovation. This broad expertise underscores his commitment to fostering critical thinking and finding innovate solutions. With over a decade of higher education experience in China, Alex's goal is to create an inclusive environment that inspires students through his deep passion for education.

Quality Assurance in TNE and Student Engagement

Yanan Wang
Deputy Head, Quality Assurance Office, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

Contributors: *Day 2 presentations*

The use of Generative AI in teaching, learning & assessment in TNE

Dr Ling Ma
Reader in Software Engineering,
Queen Mary University of London

Dr Ling Ma is a Reader in Software Engineering in the School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL). She is the Director of the Joint Teaching and Learning Centre between QMUL and the Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (BUPT). Dr Ma is a Senior Fellow of AdvanceHE and a member of the IEEE and the IET. Her research focuses on modern software development methodologies, data analytics, and pedagogical innovation in engineering education.

Digital Transformation in TNE

Dr. Olivia Yiqun Sun
Assistant Professor of Practice,
Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

Yiqun (Olivia) Sun is an educational developer and an assistant professor of practice in the Educational Development Unit at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (XJTLU). She has over ten years of teaching and administration experience in higher education and educational institutions. She has led multiple initiatives to promote and integrate generative AI into teaching and learning at XJTLU. Olivia serves as the guest editor for a special issue on AI in Learning and Teaching for the Developing Academic Practice Journal. Her research interests include blended learning, Technology enhanced Learning (TEL), digital literacy, and generative AI.

Contributors: *Day 2 Panel discussions*

Integrating Research Engagement & Industry Collaboration in TNE to Advance Staff Development & Student Employability

Dr Wasim Ahmad (Chair)
Programme Director & Senior Lecturer in Autonomous Systems and Connectivity,
University of Glasgow

Dr Sumara Khan
Senior Lecturer,
Coventry University London

Sumara Khan is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy with over 20 years of leadership experience in UK higher education. She currently serves as Chief External Examiner at Birmingham Newman University, Lead Quality Assurance Moderator at New Buckinghamshire University (overseeing 13 international partners), and Dissertation Lead at Coventry University London Campus.

Her recent publication on ministry-led quality assurance frameworks for TNE appears in the International Journal of Scientific Research and Engineering Development (2025). Sumara brings extensive expertise in collaborative governance, quality assurance, and international partnership development.

Dr Peter CY YAU
Assistant Professor of Computing Science,
University of Glasgow, Singapore

Dr. Peter Yau is an Assistant Professor of Computing Science at the University of Glasgow, Singapore, with a research background in financial technology, robotics, and computer vision. He serves as an associate editor, ABET evaluator, and cloud faculty ambassador, and has received recognition from Microsoft and Amazon for his contributions to education and innovation. His recent scholarship in learning and teaching involves the creation of an ethical and responsible AI framework for higher education. He also coordinates industry–academic collaboration projects.

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Contributors: *Day 2 Panel discussions*

Integrating Research Engagement & Industry Collaboration in TNE to Advance Staff Development & Student Employability

Dr Joojo Walker
Senior Lecturer and Level Head,
Oxford Brookes College, Chengdu University of Technology

Dr Walker is currently a Senior Lecturer and Level Head at Oxford Brookes College, Chengdu University of Technology. I hold both a Ph.D. and a master's degree in software engineering from the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China (UESTC). My research interests centre on the design of novel machine learning and deep learning algorithms to address critical societal challenges. I am actively involved in developing innovative deep generative models to improve the accuracy, reliability, and security of recommendation systems and educational technologies. Recently, I have also been investigating the impact of AI on teaching and learning within transnational education institutions.

Dr Adnan Zahid
Assistant Professor,
Heriot-Watt University

Adnan Zahid received his BSc Hons & MSc in electronics and communication engineering from Glasgow Caledonian University, and University of Strathclyde, respectively. He received his PhD in Electronics and Electrical Engineering from University of Glasgow in October 2020 with Full Scholarship awarded from Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC). His current research interests include terahertz (THz)/RF sensing for precision agriculture and communication applications, artificial intelligence, internet of things, non-invasive health care solutions, wearable and flexible sensors, and learning. He has authored and co-authored over 30+ peer-reviewed publications in top-tier journals and conference proceedings, 2 books and received recognition for his work, and acts as a reviewer for several journals and conferences. He has given talk at esteemed platforms including IMBIOC conference, IWMAT, IEEEMTS, URSI, Xidian University, Xian China, Plant Science Conference (GPAR) 2022. He has served as TPC chair for UCET 2018, 2019, BodyNets 2020, and SMARTTECH, 2021.

Contributors: *Day 2 Practice sharing sessions*

Innovative Student Support Systems in TNE Contexts

Mr. Mingda Ma
Deputy Head of the Student Affairs Centre,
Glasgow College UESTC, Chengdu

Mingda Ma is currently the Deputy Head of the Student Affairs Center at Glasgow College, UESTC, where he focuses on student experience and career planning. With over 12 years of experience in higher education administration at UESTC, Mingda has received numerous awards at national, provincial, and university levels. Previously, he worked in academic talent recruitment at UESTC. Mingda holds a Master of Engineering in Communication Engineering from UESTC.

Lang Hu
Student Support and Engagement Officer,
Glasgow College UESTC, Chengdu

Student Support and Engagement Officer, Glasgow College UESTC. I am the Student Support and Engagement Officer at Glasgow College, UESTC. In this role, I focus on enhancing the student learning experience and strengthening both academic and pastoral support within the joint programme. My work includes coordinating student engagement initiatives, supporting student development, and fostering a positive, inclusive learning environment for both domestic and international students.

I hold both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Education from universities in Ireland. Before joining Glasgow College, I worked in the higher education sector in Ireland, where I supported student success and helped improve learning outcomes across diverse student groups. My international background has equipped me with strong cross-cultural communication skills and a nuanced understanding of student needs in transnational education contexts.

Contributors: *Day 2 Practice sharing sessions*

Enhancing Student Belonging & Identity in Transnational Learning Communities

Dr Shazia Ahmed
Lecturer in Mathematics & Statistics,
University of Glasgow

Dr Ahmed is a Lecturer in the School of Mathematics & Statistics at the University of Glasgow with a particular interest in maths support, digital accessibility, maths outreach and student transition into Higher Education.

Rebecca Wakelin
Director, Educational Development Unit,
Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

Rebecca is an award-winning educator and faculty development leader with over 20 years of experience across secondary, higher education, and military training contexts. As the Director of the Educational Development Unit at XJTLU, she designs & implements strategic initiatives to empower educators globally, leveraging her expertise in pedagogy, organizational development, and cross-cultural collaboration.

A licensed teacher, with advanced degrees in political science & education, Rebecca has trained faculty across North America, Asia, & beyond. Her leadership spans large development programs, from operational training to institutional transformation projects. Her research focuses on faculty development leadership, early-career academic support, and narrative-driven organizational change, blending research with practical impact. Recognized for her innovative approaches, Rebecca is committed to fostering teaching excellence in diverse educational ecosystems.

Contributors: *Day 2 Practice sharing sessions*

Enhancing Student Belonging & Identity in Transnational Learning Communities

Dr Colette Mair
Senior Lecturer,
University of Glasgow

Dr Mair is Senior Lecturer in Statistics at the School of Mathematics & Statistics at the University of Glasgow, focused on teaching & learning. She has an interest in pedagogy with a focus on understanding student belonging and success, and improving access to HE. Her main areas of research are inclusion and diversifying Mathematical Sciences, decolonising the curriculum, & improving accessibility of mathematics-based disciplines.

Qiyue Wang
Postgraduate student in Global Education,
Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

Qiyue Wang is a postgraduate student in Global Education at XJTLU's Academy of Future Education, offering an insider perspective as both a TNE student and emerging scholar. As a Research Assistant on the "Leadership Education & AI" project and a member of the Student-Staff Liaison Committee, she actively bridges student voices with institutional practice. With firsthand insights into navigating dual academic and cultural systems, Qiyue is passionate about translating student perspectives into actionable strategies for building inclusive TNE environments.

Contributors: *Day 2 Practice sharing sessions*

Navigating Classrooms and Cultural Dynamics in China

Dr Sannia Mareta
Senior Tutor in Science & Engineering,
University of Nottingham Ningbo China

Sannia started at the University of Nottingham Ningbo China in 2013 by conducting a research-based doctoral study with the focus on developing the compliant-based actuation mechanism. During this time she supervised four final year engineering students and an overseas intern.

She has received a prestigious "Dream Scholarship" award for her dedication towards science and technology innovation to the university.

In 2017, Dr Mareta became a Preliminary Year Science Tutor and is now the Science and Engineering Academic Content Team Leader. She is also leading a university-wide project named V-ROOM, which focuses on research, development, and utilisation of virtual reality, augmented reality, and mixed reality technologies.

Building Bridges: Initiating and Sustaining UK-China TNE Partnerships

Dr. Rui Li
Director,
British Council Southwest China,

Li Rui is Director of the British Council in Southwest China, responsible for UK's cultural relation and education exchanges work in Sichuan, Yunnan, Guizhou provinces and Chongqing municipality, while supporting higher education partnership in China. People to people exchanges have always been Li Rui's passion in his career. Since joining the British Council in 2009, he has managed various programmes, such as English, Physical Education, Social Entrepreneur and Higher Education Partnership, and built extensive partnership network among governments and professional institutions in the UK and China.

Thank you for your participation in *CONNECT: UK–China Transnational Education Symposium.*

We hope to see you in 2026

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