

Global Education and Innovation Forum (Hybrid) 2026

- PhD student-led forum jointly organised by PGRs from Manchester, Harvard, UCL, Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol, Birmingham
(Officially Funded by UoM SEF)

1. Theme: Connecting Education, Research, and Real-World Innovation

2. Time, Location & Scale

- Dates: 2026 June 26 Friday
- Duration: 1 day 10:00-16:00
- Main Day Conference Venue: University of Manchester, UK
- Refreshments will be provided during the morning and afternoon coffee breaks, and lunch will be offered for both participants and guest speakers.

3. Purpose of the Conference & Forum

- Explore the future of education in the context of AI, technology, and global change
- Create dialogue between research, practice, and student experience
- Provide a platform for student academic research dissemination (Master's and PhD level)
- Support career development and international employability
- Foster a strong learning community and sense of belonging
- Establish a sustainable, student-led academic tradition at the University of Manchester

4. Programme Overview

Day 1 – Conference Morning (10:00–12:00)	
Opening Ceremony 10:00-10:20	Introduce “Global Education and Innovation Forum & Manchester Education Gala Dinner 2026 Summer ‘
Distinguished speakers 10:20-11:20	2–3 distinguished speakers to officially open the event
Round Table 1 11:20-12:00	Speakers: 3–5 experts from academia, industry, and educational organisations
Day 1 – Lunch (12:00–13:00) + Afternoon (13:00–16:00)	
Round Table 2-4 13:00-16:00	Theme: Connecting Education, Research, and Real-World Innovation
Day 1 Gala Dinner 18:00-22:00 (to be confirmed)	
Day 2 Optional Online Sharing 10:00-12:00 (to be confirmed)	

5. Current Roundtable Topics

<p style="text-align: center;">University of Manchester In-Person & Online 2026 June 26 Friday UK (BST): 10:00-4:00 pm China (CST): 5:00-11:00 PM US (EDT): 5:00-11:00 AM</p>
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	Panel Topic	Potential Guests
1	<p>PhD Career Paths: Employment & Cross-Industry Transition in the UK</p> <p>Panel Coordinators (In-Person)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oluwatosin Ajibola, PhD in Law and Bioethics, University of Manchester, UK • Ernestina Zhu Xinyi, PhD in Business Management, University of Manchester <p>Online Representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun Kun, PhD in Education, University of Malaya, Malaysia • Haoxin Shen, PhD in Education, University of Bath, UK • Jun Yan, EdD in Education (Doctor of Education), University of Bath, UK <p>Roundtable Speaker Registration Form: https://forms.gle/FF2ZsvfCPGZCGbtGA</p> <p>Deadline: 31 March (1st round); 15 April (2nd round)</p>	PhD alumni in consulting, policy, corporate, EdTech, career services, entrepreneurs, HR.
2	<p>Data, AI & EdTech Innovation and Entrepreneurship</p> <p>Panel Coordinators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ming Chen, PhD in Education, University of Bristol, UK • Yober Jenry Arteaga Irene, PhD in Operations Management, University of Manchester, UK • Ernestina Zhu Xinyi, PhD in Business Management, University of Manchester, UK <p>Online Representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boya Zhang, MA Education, University College London, UK • Kun Sun, PhD in Education, University of Malaya, Malaysia • Ang Ma, MA in Digital Media, Lasell University, USA • Hui Shen, MA in Educational Leadership in Practice, University of Manchester, Based in China <p>Roundtable Speaker Registration Form: https://forms.gle/SKKp9TRdHqxniWjs5</p> <p>Deadline: 31 March (1st round); 15 April (2nd round)</p>	Data scientists, AI researchers, EdTech founders, product managers, incubator mentors.
3	<p>Research into Impact: From Paper to Practice</p> <p>Panel Coordinators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yang Liang, PhD in Education, University of Birmingham, UK • Ming Chen, PhD in Education, University of Bristol, UK 	Impact scholars, policy researchers, lead ers.

	<p>Online Representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oluwatosin Ajibola, PhD in Law and Bioethics, University of Manchester, UK • Yober Arteaga, PhD in Operations Management, University of Manchester, UK • Kun Sun, PhD in Education, University of Malaya, Malaysia • Siyuan Zhang, PhD in Education, University of Glasgow, UK <p>Roundtable Speaker Registration Form: https://forms.gle/uM5UeM1GRmpieQMP8</p> <p>Deadline: 31 March (1st round); 15 April (2nd round)</p>	
4	<p>Crossroads: Continue PhD or Enter the Workforce?</p> <p>Panel Coordinators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yurou Chen, MA in International Education (TESOL), University of Manchester <p>Online Representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yuxi Xia, PhD in Education, University of Cambridge, UK • Oluwatosin Ajibola, PhD in Law and Bioethics, University of Manchester, UK • Xingyu Niu, BA in Education, leadership and culture, University of Manchester, UK • Hui Shen, MA in Educational Leadership in Practice, University of Manchester, Based in China <p>Roundtable Speaker Registration Form: https://forms.gle/qidtxLpqkbzicrFp6</p> <p>Deadline: 31 March (1st round); 15 April (2nd round)</p>	<p>Current PhDs, master's alumni in industry, ECRs who changed paths, PhDs who left academia.</p>
<p>Only Online 2026 June 27 Saturday UK (BST): 10:00-12:00 AM China (CST): 5:00-7:00 PM US (EDT): 5:00-7:00 AM</p>		
	Panel Topic	Potential Guests
1	<p>Internationalisation and Cross-Border Learning</p> <p>Online Panel Coordinators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hui Shen, MA in Educational Leadership in Practice, University of Manchester, Based in China • Ang Ma, MA in Digital Media, Lasell University, USA • Luman Zhou, PhD in Higher Education (critical thinking), University of Manchester, UK • Xinyue Zhou, PhD in Education, University of Cambridge, UK <p>Roundtable Speaker Registration Form:</p>	<p>International program leaders, cross-cultural scholars, alumni with global study/work experience</p>

	<p>https://forms.gle/WwBkcm9eGUTFKcTj7</p> <p>Deadline: 31 March (1st round); 15 April (2nd round)</p>	
2	<p>Inside International Schools: Classroom, Culture & Career Paths</p> <p>Online Panel Coordinators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jinjing Zhu, PhD in Education, University of Manchester, UK ● Xinyue Zhou, PhD in Education, University of Cambridge, UK ● Hui Shen, MA in Educational Leadership in Practice, University of Manchester, Based in China ● Jie He, PhD in Education, University of Auckland, New Zealand ● Yuxi Xia, PhD in Education, University of Cambridge, UK ● Sun Kun, PhD in Education Science, University of Malaya, Malaysia <p>Roundtable Speaker Registration Form: https://forms.gle/YXuDBrjiAz4QAJ2N8</p> <p>Deadline: 31 March (1st round); 15 April (2nd round)</p>	<p>International school teachers, curriculum coordinators, principals, and education professionals.</p>

Propose a New Panel (Optional)

If you would like to **propose an additional roundtable topic (Panel 7, 8, 9, etc.)**, please contact luman.zhou@manchester.ac.uk. We welcome new ideas **before 31st March**.

Manchester Education Gala Dinner 2026 (Optional)

An optional Gala Dinner (18:00-21:00) will be held on the evening following the Global Education Innovation Forum 2026, and it is separately ticketed and not included in the forum registration. The ticket price is set to cover event costs only (venue and catering) and is not intended to generate profit.

Venue: The Midland Hotel, Manchester or Manchester Hall.

We will email all participants with registration details once the venue is confirmed.

6. Conference Organising Team

GPEDU Global Committee :

Founding Chair (Forum Chair): Luman Zhou, PhD in Higher Education (critical thinking), University of Manchester, UK
Master Development Director: Yurou Chen, MA in International Education TESOL (intercultural communication), University of Manchester
Media Director (English): Yang Liang, PhD in Education evaluation (family-school cooperation), University of Birmingham, UK
PhD Development Director: Ming Chen, PhD in Education (Computer assisted language learning), University of Bristol, UK
General Secretary: Jinjing Zhu, PhD in Education, University of Manchester (teacher education), UK (China time)
Academic Director: Dan Leng, PhD in Educational Leadership (policy enactment), University College London, UK
HR Director: Beilei Zhao, MA in Education Leadership, Organizations, and Entrepreneurship (Family Education), Harvard University, USA
Media Director (Chinese): Xinyue Zhou, PhD in Education (Digital literacy), University of Cambridge, UK
Head of Finance: Winston, University of Warwick & Walton, MBA INSEAD

Academic Coordinator:

Qijia Wang, PhD in Psychology and Education (Executive function), University of Cambridge, UK
Yilin You, PhD in Applied Linguistics (identity and investment), University of Oxford, UK
Haishan Yang, PhD in Educational Leadership and Higher Education (Sense of Belonging), University of Southern California, USA
Sun Kun, PhD in Education Science (AI-Education Integration), University of Malaya, Malaysia
Yuxi Xia, PhD in Education (Teacher professional learning and development), University of Cambridge, UK
Yober Jenry Arteaga Irene, PhD in Operations Management (Smart manufacturing), University of Manchester, UK
Haoxin Shen, PhD in Education (AI in Education), University of Bath, UK
Oluwatosin Ajibola, PhD in Law and Bioethics (Health Inequities and inequality), University of Manchester, UK
Jun Yan, PhD in Education, Applied Linguistics and Intercultural Communication (Teacher Education), University of Bath, UK
Ernestina Xinyi Zhu, PhD in Business Management, Fintech, Tokenization, NFTs, University of Manchester, UK

Media Coordinator:

Yang Shao, MA in Accounting, University of Manchester, UK
Xingyu Niu, BA in Education, leadership and culture, University of Manchester, UK
Zhang Boya, MA in Education, University College London, UK
Ang Ma, MA in Digital Media, Lasell University, USA
Siyuan Zhang, PhD in Education, University of Glasgow

Outreach Team:

Yifan Liu, PhD in Social Justice Education, University of Toronto, Canada
Jie He, PhD in Education, University of Auckland, New Zealand
Hui Shen, MA in Educational Leadership in Practice, University of Manchester, Based in China

7. Supporting Partners & Collaborators (*Indicative*)

7.1 Lead Organiser: PGR from UoM, and we will have a partnership with GPEDU (Manchester SU registered society)

GPEDU core team: <https://globalphdedu.com/team-25-26/> | <https://globalphdedu.com/>

7.2 Core Institutional Support: Manchester Institute of Education, University of Manchester

(If required, we will also approach relevant lecturers and members of the School of Education leadership team to provide academic support for the event.)

7.3 Supporting & Partner Organisations

- [University of Manchester Education Society \(UoM Society\)](#)
- Harvard China Education Symposium (CES) <https://chinaedsymposium.org/>
- Cambridge China Education Forum (CCEF) <https://www.cambridgecef.net/>
- Toronto China Education Forum (TCEF) <https://sop.utoronto.ca/group/china-education-forum-utcef/>
- University of Manchester China Alumni Association, with regional chapters in Beijing, Shanghai, Sichuan, Shenzhen and other major cities in China.

8. Sponsor & Funding

This conference is proudly supported by University of Manchester, which has generously sponsored the venue and refreshments. We sincerely appreciate the University's support in making this event possible.



As a non-profit academic platform, this conference does not operate for profit. Any ticket fees or related charges (including the Gala Dinner) are solely intended to:

- Prevent resource waste
- Cover essential event costs
- Ensure the long-term sustainability of our public-interest platform

All proceeds will be reinvested into future academic activities and student initiatives.

We are committed to transparency, responsibility, and building a sustainable academic community.

9. Key Dates

- 4 January 2025 | Forum officially launches
- 21 February 2026 | Core team officially formed
- 1 March 2026 | Forum theme confirmed
- 20 March 2026 | Early Bird Tickets – Forum & Gala released
- 17 April 2026 | Full Tickets – Forum & Gala released
- 05 June 2026 | All Confirmed
- 26 June 2026 | Forum & Gala

Forum Contact Details

For further information regarding the Global Education Innovation Forum 2026, please contact:

- globalstudyhub2024@gmail.com

For updates and further information about the Global Education Innovation Forum 2026, please also follow our social media channels:

- LinkedIn: Global PhD network in Education: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/global-phd-network-in-education-9a151b331/>
- WeChat: global study hub: <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/w0vqywUlg5QEmGPv2YLkiw>
- Instagram: 3rd_studyhub: https://www.instagram.com/3rd_studyhub?igsh=MWRhY3AydXdsM2l4Zw%3D%3D&utm_source=qr
- Email: globalstudyhub2024@gmail.com
- Website: <https://globalphdedu.com/>

Regular updates regarding speakers, programme details, and registration information will be shared via our social media platforms.

Registration and Fees

Some refreshments for invited speakers are supported by funding from the University of Manchester. A small registration fee will be charged for participants to help cover catering and organisational costs for the event.

This event is organised on a non-profit basis, and all income will be used solely to support the running of the forum.

Please note that registration fees are non-refundable, but tickets may be transferred to another participant if you are unable to attend.