



Strengthening education and skills systems: The UK's offer to global partners



Special acknowledgement for their contribution to the development of this publication goes to People 1st International, who worked in partnership with members of UK Skills Partnership and the Government's Education Sector Advisory Group (ESAG).

Ministerial foreword

The UK is a world leader in international education and is dedicated to cultivating enduring and mutually beneficial educational partnerships globally. International education is a catalyst for societal progress, economic growth, soft power and environmental sustainability. We are committed to fostering collaborations that drive global social prosperity, trade, and the advancement of world-class standards.

At the heart of this commitment is our pride in the UK's world class international education sector. Spanning early years education to higher education, including technical vocational training, transnational education, English language teaching and specialised services for individuals with special educational needs, our sector embodies a commitment to excellence and inclusivity.

Our extensive network of skills and training providers, delivering industry-aligned apprenticeships and vocational qualifications, demonstrates our dedication to nurturing talent and bolstering economic development, and our industry leading EdTech providers are delivering innovative products that can change lives.

This brochure underscores the excellence of UK education providers on the international stage. Its development was led by the UK Skills Partnership and guided by members of the Government's Education Sector Advisory Group (ESAG), whose dedication is sincerely appreciated.

We extend our gratitude to them and the members they represent for their invaluable contributions shaping this brochure. ESAG, representing voices from diverse corners of the UK education landscape, ensures that all perspectives are considered. Their work, together with that of the UK's International Education Champion, Sir Steve Smith has been critical to driving forward international education partnerships and supports the government's international engagement.

The UK is dedicated to creating sustainable and impactful change and by working together with governments, partners and other stakeholders, we can implement meaningful solutions that address the specific needs and challenges of each country. We invite our global partners to collaborate with us to unlock a better future for our individuals and societies.



Lord Offord of Garvel CVO
Minister for Exports



Luke Hall MP
Minister for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education

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Context

Education and skills play a pivotal role in shaping the economic, social, and cultural fabric of the UK. In a rapidly evolving global landscape, nations worldwide also recognise the importance of education in driving their progress and development. With the power to combat discrimination and social inequality, education helps to foster innovation, boost productivity, and promote economic growth and social stability.

Across different nations and cultures, there is a common interest in promoting and investing in education and skills development to address the ever-evolving job market, technological advancements, and global competition.

In the UK, we recognise the need for high quality, sustainable education and skills systems that foster competent, productive and inclusive workforces. We take pride in being able to share our knowledge and expertise with international partners to build mutually beneficial partnerships that help raise education and skills standards.

Through collaboration between educational and skills organisations, unified under the UK Skills Partnership, the UK offers a comprehensive range of solutions to support international partners.

Strong heritage

The UK boasts centuries of experience in academic excellence alongside a robust skills system that prioritises innovation, research, and inclusivity. With a strong emphasis on both academic and vocational education, the UK continues to produce one of the most skilled workforces in the world.



Early years education is renowned for its high quality and strong emphasis on child development. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum framework sets standards for learning, development, and care for young children, and is followed by all early years settings in the UK.



Our primary and secondary **schools** offer a well-rounded curriculum, combining core subjects with a range of options to cater to diverse interests and abilities.



The UK's emphasis is on practical learning through **vocational** pathways, internships, apprenticeships. Our strong industrial collaboration provides theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience that gives graduates an edge in the job market.



Our **higher education** is renowned for its rigorous academic quality and standards, innovative pedagogy, and diverse range of courses.

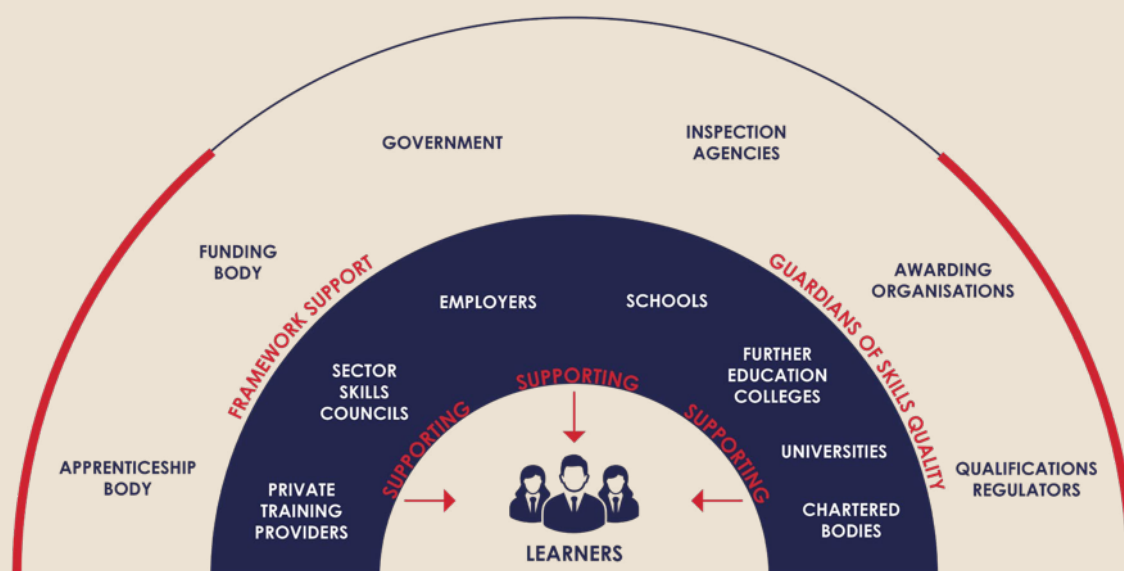


Our reputation for providing high-quality education extends to our **transnational education** programmes.



UK assessment providers deliver secure **English language** tests in 144 countries around the world, helping millions of students to demonstrate their proficiency for study or work.

The UK system is renowned for its seamless integration of different levels of education, creating a cohesive learning journey from early years through to higher education. The strategic partners that surround the educational institutions add significant strength, helping to create a robust and yet flexible skills system. Alongside the core education and skills bodies, we have many micro, small and medium enterprises that provide skills and training innovation and expertise.



International presence

With a world-class education and skills offering, a global reputation and a strong physical presence in international markets, the UK's rich heritage offers strong appeal to other nations looking to enhance their own human capital.

Education plays a crucial role in achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aim to end poverty, promote economic growth, and protect the environment by 2030. As a strong advocate for international development, the UK has leveraged its expertise and resources to support other countries in meeting these goals through education. The UK has collaborated with international partners to strengthen education systems, provide quality education for all, and promote lifelong learning opportunities.

In 2019, the UK government published the International Education Strategy (IES): global potential, global growth. In consultation with the sector and Devolved Administrations, it sets out a cohesive, cross-government approach to supporting the global activities of the education sector. **In 2021, the total revenue from education related exports and transnational education activity was £27.9 billion. This represents an increase of 6.2% since 2020 when total revenue was £26.3 billion and stood at 8 per cent of the UK's total services exports¹.**

¹ UK revenue from education related exports and transnational education activity, Gov.uk, 2024

Unique offer presented by the UK education and skills sector

A cross-section of organisations from the UK education sector have united to showcase how the UK can support governments around the world to enhance their education and skills systems. As a collaboration of education and skills specialists, through the UK Skills Partnership we are able to identify collaborative solutions to meet the specific needs of international partners.

The information presented within this document provides UK and international stakeholders with:

A high-level overview of the work that each level of the UK education and skills system engages in internationally.

A comprehensive outline of the specific services and support the UK can offer to international partners at each level of education.

Clear signposts to the organisations that can help international partners connect with UK education and skills sector.

By increasing awareness of the UK's education and skills landscape globally, along with the opportunities and strengths of each level within it, we aim to increase the scale and scope of our mutually beneficial collaborations with international partners across the spectrum.



Early years

Early years provision helps support children under the age of five, through nursery schools, pre-schools, and other early learning environments. Effective, high-quality provision has a significant impact on a child's overall development and growth, laying a strong foundation for further learning.

The work of the early years sector internationally

The international work of early years providers is led by the Early Years Alliance which supports policy and provision development in a range of countries, informed by its experiences of operating high quality early childhood education and care in mixed-economy environments. It takes a 360° approach to policy formulation, implementation and quality improvement, involving all stakeholders, government ministries, providers and parents, in the process.

The Early Years Alliance helped the UK government develop and implement the English Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) regulatory framework. The EYFS' focus on meeting the unique learning and development needs of each child, through a balanced curriculum of play-based, child-led and adult-led activities can be aligned effectively with many countries' cultural, economic and regulatory environments.

Support available to international partners



International membership: All-staff access to a one-stop location for all aspects of early childhood education and support resources. Qualification courses allow for career progression, and free, online continuous professional development programmes support workforce development, strengthen leadership and management and drive quality improvement. Periodicals and resources are provided, supporting effective delivery of early childhood education and care based on the principles of the EYFS.



Policy, regulatory and quality assurance framework formulation, implementation, and oversight: Support to national and regional governments to develop high quality early years systems informed by the principles of the EYFS. Advice to education policy makers and finance ministries enables the development and implementation of effective early years provision at scale. It also supports the creation of socially and culturally appropriate regulatory and inspection frameworks.

SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Early Years Alliance is working with Early Childhood Development nurseries in South African townships to improve provision in challenging economic situations. Support includes online and in-person workforce development. Family engagement support also ensures parents understand their essential role in supporting their child's early learning and development and improving their confidence to do so.





Increasing public understanding of the vital role of the first 5 years of life:

Information, training and promotional support to help increase parents' understanding of the vital role the first 5 years of life play in shaping their children's future. This helps parents understand their essential role in supporting their child's early learning and development and increases the status and professionalism of the early childhood education and care workforce.



Workforce development:

Workforce development strategies at individual, provider, regional and national levels through identification of qualification and professional development training needs. The creation of tailored programmes and quality assurance frameworks ensure increased skill levels make a real impact on the quality of young children's experiences. Services include in-person training, online teaching and blended provision.



Observation and inspection of practice:

A quality assurance service to assess the quality of local teaching and assessment, giving an independent evaluation to reassure funders, providers and parents that high quality training is improving the quality of provision. This work supports local training agencies to assess their own practice and improve provision.

UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE EYFS TO NURSERIES IN CHINA

The Early Years Alliance has worked with the China National Society of Early Childhood Education for over 10 years, delivering conferences and workforce development programmes. Training covers all aspects of children's early learning and development, including latest developments in neuroscience, brain development, and international theorists.



Key contacts

The Early Years Alliance is the largest non-governmental early childhood education and care organisation in the UK with over 60 years' experience of influencing policy and regulatory frameworks, providing dedicated financial expertise and supporting workforce development.

W: eyalliance.org.uk



Schools

Primary and secondary education, with its transformative power, plays a crucial role in shaping students for their future. It provides them with a robust foundation for their academic and professional journey, equipping them with the essential knowledge and skills to excel in their chosen fields later in life.

The work of the schools sector internationally

A British international school is a school that teaches the British National Curriculum or has a British orientation, outside of the UK. There are around 6,740 schools globally that follow a UK orientated curriculum, which represent almost 48% of the international school sector. As of 2024, there are 70 UK independent school brands operating overseas, with 137 campuses and with c.72,000 students².

Overseas schools can [apply for voluntary British Schools Overseas \(BSO\) accreditation](#) from the UK Department for Education. BSO accreditation is quality assured by Ofsted and provides international schools the opportunity to demonstrate how they meet standards very closely aligned to those used to regulate independent schools in England.

There are multiple associations representing British international schools. These offer a wide range of solutions which aim to:

- **Strengthen the reputation of high-quality British education and to foster exchange:** to help education networks to learn with and from each other on the leading practices to support schools.
- **Drive structured learning & innovation:** to advance schools' knowledge by identifying grassroots innovations and facilitating co-creation and evidence generation on common challenges.
- **Inform practice and policy reform:** to leverage schools' innovations and expertise to better inform education policy.



Support available to international partners

Establishment and growth of new British international schools: Guidance and support for UK independent schools that are planning to set up overseas, and for established schools worldwide that are planning to expand.



Accreditation: External quality assurance by recognised bodies. Support with the formulation of school development plans which contribute to long term-school improvement and attainment of high standards.



Professional learning for teachers, teaching assistants, governors, and leaders: Training on topics including initial teacher training in the form of international Qualified Teacher Status (iQTS) and International Postgraduate Certificate of Education (iPGCE) training and programmes for middle leaders and aspiring school leaders.

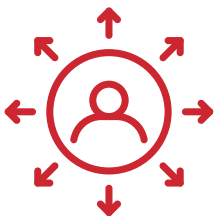


OPERATING INTERNATIONALLY: A CASE STUDY OF REIGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL (RGS I)

Reigate Grammar School International (RGS I) was established in 2017 with the purpose of developing international partnerships. Through these partnerships, RGS pupils and staff benefit from cultural learning opportunities across continents as part of the 'RGS Global Village' project.

Over the past seven years, RGS Global Village has expanded to include commercial and philanthropic partnerships with schools in China, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia and South Africa.

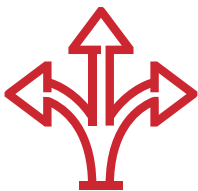
They support and uphold the quality standards of their partner schools, ensuring that the essence of an RGS education is effectively adapted to their unique cultural and contextual needs.



Upskilling support staff: Professional learning for the wider school workforce, including bursars, business managers, HR staff, executive assistants, marketing and admissions staff.



Good governance and safeguarding: Training connected to effective and accountable school governance models and practice. Child protection and safer recruitment training, including advanced safeguarding training. Safeguarding support through the British International Schools Safeguarding Coalition (BISSC).



University, apprenticeship, vocational training and careers guidance: Access to high-quality training, guidance and support for student guidance counsellors, students and their families. Delivered in partnership with organisations including Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), British Universities' International Liaison Association (BUILA), UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA), Universities UK International (UUKi) and Times Higher Education (THE).



Student competitions and events: Global opportunities for students to compete and interconnect in a range of inspirational and challenging competitions and events.



OPERATING INTERNATIONALLY: A CASE STUDY OF THE KING'S SCHOOL, CANTERBURY

The King's School, Canterbury holds the distinction of being one of the oldest schools in the world and the oldest school in the UK.

Over the last five years the school has established partnerships and introduced its educational philosophy to an international market, with schools in China, Cambodia, and its ground-breaking International College in Canterbury which welcomes students from around the world providing a soft landing in UK boarding.

By leveraging strategic investor relations, robust quality assurance processes, effective governance structures, and live connections with the home school, the school navigates the complexities of global education markets while maintaining its reputation for academic excellence and student welfare.

Key contacts

The international associations below are listed on the UK Government website as supporting international accreditation for British schools

overseas. These high quality associations work collaboratively in promoting the UK's International Education Strategy in conjunction with the Department for Business & Trade, the Department for Education and the [Independent Schools Council](#).



- [Association of British Schools Overseas \(AoBSO\)](#)
- [British Schools Middle East \(BSME\)](#)
- [Council of British International Schools \(COBIS\)](#)
- [Federation of British International Schools in Asia \(FOBISIA\)](#)
- [Latin American Heads Conference \(LAHC\)](#)
- [National Association of British Schools in Spain \(NABSS\)](#)
- [Publishers Association](#)

Technical vocational education (TVET), skills and training

Technical vocational education (TVET), skills and training play a crucial role in bridging the gap between education and employment. It offers a focus on practical skills and industry-specific training, helping to prepare students for the workforce. It also provides skilled workers to meet the demands of businesses which drives growth and competitiveness.



Delivering tourism taster to Saudi delegates

To help upskill Saudi nationals for its burgeoning tourism sector, 245 Saudi Arabian delegates undertook a tourism taster training programme at City of Glasgow college. Covering areas such as hospitality operations, food and beverage management, event planning, and tourism in a global context, delegates also gained practical experience with local industry partners. The college has since secured a contract for the second phase of the Tourism Trailblazers Initiative with Umm Al-Qura University, in partnership with Qobolak, and has created a further four training programmes for delegates from the tourism and hospitality industry in Saudi Arabia.

The work of the TVET sector internationally

A wide range of organisations within the UK's TVET sector have an international presence, playing a vital role in promoting and delivering high-quality industry-driven vocational training, skills development, and education. This includes:

- **Provision:** Further education colleges, institutes of technology, national colleges, independent training providers and skills consultants work internationally in various capacities, including transnational education partnerships, TVET capacity-building projects, curriculum development, bespoke training programmes and consultancy projects.
- **Sectoral skills:** Sector skills councils and National Skills Academies work with international partners to support in developing a sectoral approach to skills, labour market intelligence, standards and curriculum development, train the trainer programmes and quality assurance.
- **Qualifications:** Awarding organisations offer qualifications, training accreditation, custom programme development, consultancy and credentialing.
- **Inspiring young people:** Worldskills raises the profile and recognition of skilled people, through competitions, projects, frameworks and international partnerships.
- **Professional standards:** Chartered and professional bodies develop, promote and regulate professional standards within a specific industry to ensure competence and enhance the knowledge and skills of individuals.

The UK Skills Partnership (UKSP) unites TVET providers and suppliers to present a collective offer to extend the reach into markets where there is growing demand for the UK TVET offer. As of 2024, through collaboration UKSP has supported 926 projects across 63 countries.

ENHANCING LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT COMPETENCE IN INDONESIA

Cardiff and Vale College (CAVC) designed and delivered a short leadership and management programme to TVET academics working in the Indonesian Polytechnic Sector. Key themes included leadership, organising and delegating resources, and creating a high-performance culture in the TVET educational workplace. Successfully completing two accredited Institute of Learning and Management (ILM) units, delegates also acquired skills to become more confident and effective as leaders in their institutions.



Support available to international partners



Workforce intelligence/research:

Labour market insight to identify skills priorities and inform the development of skills strategies and policies that support social and economic growth.



TVET policy & strategy:

Policy development and strategic planning of skills at a sectoral, regional or national level, technical qualification reform and provider implementation, building effective TVET systems that align to industry needs and promote growth.



Standards & curriculum development:

Development of nation-specific occupational standards to define the skills, knowledge and behaviours for job roles, underpinning industry-relevant curriculum. Curriculum development, mapping and internationalisation to incorporate global dimensions into the content of the curriculum, assessment, and teaching.



Qualifications, assessment & certification:

Qualifications that meet local needs while maintaining an international standard, helping individuals upskill, reskill and embrace lifelong learning. Certification/recognition capability through internationally recognised awarding organisations.



Quality assurance & accreditation:

Development of quality assurance systems and recognition of existing curriculum or training through assessment against national and international standards, ensuring quality remains high.



Capacity and capability building:

Enhancing local capability in developing and delivering industry-led TVET curriculum through train the trainer programmes and professional development opportunities for teachers and instructors, helping to deliver a dynamic and relevant curriculum.



Workforce development programmes:

Apprenticeships, work-based programmes and micro-credentials to enhance the skills and competencies of individuals, aligned with industry needs, ensuring a more skilled and adaptable talent pool.

Key contacts

The UK Skills Partnership is a collective representing the technical and vocational education and training sector of the United Kingdom. Members of UK Skills Partnership represent UK colleges, independent training providers, awarding organisations, sector skills organisations working in international settings.

W: ukskillspartnership.org.uk



Higher education

Higher education equips individuals with knowledge for their chosen career paths, whilst also fostering critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and communication skills.

The work of the higher education sector internationally

Higher education providers in the UK play a crucial role in helping international partners by offering various educational programmes, partnerships and research collaborations. They provide consultancy services on various matters such as policy development, governance structures, and strategic planning, helping international governments to make informed decisions based on best practices in the field of higher education.

Representatives of higher education organisations working internationally include:

- Universities UK International (UUKI) - the collective voice of the UK's universities, bringing universities together across all four nations of the UK to foster collaboration, exchange insight and influence policy.
- Independent Higher Education (IHE) - the representative body for independent providers of higher education, professional training, and pathways.
- Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) - the UK's shared admissions service for higher education that annually manages applications from over 150,000 international applicants based in over 190 countries and territories.
- Advance HE - a member-led charity of and for the sector that works with partners across the globe to improve higher education for staff, students and society.



DMU KAZAKHSTAN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EDPERITUS

Every year, many Kazakh students choose to go abroad for their studies in order to gain an international education that will improve their chances of finding employment globally.

De Montfort University Leicester (DMU) and EdPeritus formed a new partnership to launch the first UK university branch campus in 2021, DMU Kazakhstan (DMUK). The collaboration provides an opportunity for Kazakh students to receive a UK education in their own country, closely aligned with the broader Kazakhstan government's higher education strategy.

Support available to international partners



Global consultancy: Development of tailored education models, materials and technology, working with government, industry and educators.



Business-to-business: Development of short courses, training, CPD, and professional qualifications for staff, working closely with industry, using flying faculty and online platforms.



Specialist to industry: Consulting for aligned industry organisations on specialist subjects (e.g. nutritionists consulting on new nutrition app).



Upskilling international partners: Training opportunities for international academics and administrative staff to enhance their skills and knowledge.



Academic partnerships: Specialist courses with, or on behalf of, another higher education provider, or awarding qualifications as part of a degree partnership.



Study abroad partnerships: Bespoke study abroad offers with overseas partners, with a particular strength in internships and work placements.



Development of higher education provision: Support for overseas education providers and investors to deliver and partner in the UK, as well as help for partner institutions to develop their own academic programmes and policies based on UK standards.



Models for UK delivery: Expertise and tailored support to set up a campus or new institution in the UK, overseas providers, study abroad opportunities, regulations for accessing student finance, student visas and government funding as well as governance, financial sustainability and meeting UK requirements for student protection.

INSTITUTE FOR OPTIMUM NUTRITION SUPPORTS NEW APP

The Institute for Optimum Nutrition (ION) is a leading higher education establishment in the UK for personalised nutrition, health and wellbeing training, and continual professional development. ION has students learning online across the globe. ION offers global consultancy to develop education materials, technology and training. ION was approached by an Israeli company to provide feedback on the accuracy, specialist dietary requirement content, and usability of a personalised food and recipe app for English speaking practitioners and patients.



Key contacts

**INDEPENDENT
HIGHER
EDUCATION**

**Independent Higher
Education (IHE)**

W: ihe.ac.uk



**Universities UK
International**

W: international.ac.uk

UCAS

**Universities and
Colleges Admissions
Service (UCAS)**

W: ucas.com

AdvanceHE

Advance HE

W: advance-he.ac.uk

Transnational education

Transnational education (TNE) is an arrangement in which courses or programmes offered by an educational institution based in one country are delivered to students located in another country. It allows learners to access high-quality education from renowned institutions and provides a diverse and inclusive learning environment.

The work of transnational education services

UK providers of TNE are renowned for offering high-quality, internationally recognised qualifications to students around the world. Universities, colleges and institutes offer a wide range of programmes, including undergraduate, postgraduate and research degrees, professional qualifications, and short courses.

In addition to academic excellence, UK providers also focus on cultural exchange and personal development. They have strong partnerships with institutions in other countries, helping to bridge geographical barriers and promote collaboration on a global scale.

Support available to international partners

Organisations offering TNE provide valuable support to international partners in a variety of ways to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and skills between countries.



Students study at a UK provider's overseas campus: Overseas campuses of UK universities provide students with the opportunity to study at a renowned institution while experiencing a new culture. Campuses are designed to replicate the UK campus experience, offering high-quality education through the same curriculum and teaching methods.



Students study at a branch campus: UK universities develop a collaboration with an overseas partner institution to setup a branch campus. The campus offers the same courses and degrees as their parent university, and adheres to the standards and regulations. This ensures consistency in teaching methods, curriculum and academic integrity.

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON, GREECE

The University of East London has been collaborating with Metropolitan College in Greece since 2011 to offer a diverse range of over 50 undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, including professional doctorate courses, taught in both Greek and English.

This partnership has been very successful. In 2021/22 UEL were the top UK higher education institution in Greece by the number of TNE students (approximately 4,000), whilst MC is top of the table amongst Greek Colleges in numbers of TNE students. As of 2023/24, the student body numbers almost 5,500 students, with more than 8,500 graduates.





Student study of UK programmes in home countries through collaborative provision:

UK providers partner with institutes abroad to offer globally recognised programmes and courses, giving students the chance to study for UK programmes in their home countries. Programmes are delivered through a mix of face-to-face and online learning.



Student study of UK programmes through distance, flexible or distributed learning:

Students access high quality education from UK providers through online learning platforms. This can give students the flexibility to study at their own pace, plus benefit from access to numerous resources such as virtual libraries and interactive lessons.

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY LEIPZIG

Lancaster University (LU) was awarded the title of 'International University of the Year' for 2020 by The Times and The Sunday Times, in recognition of its efforts to provide a global learning experience for UK-based students and its innovative approach to transnational education.

One example of this innovation is Lancaster University Leipzig; it is the first branch campus of a British public university in Germany – enabling UK/European education and research post-Brexit.

LU Leipzig contributes to the aim of globalising Lancaster's learning, teaching, research and engagement. The first cohort of undergraduate students graduated in October 2023 and now in its fourth year, LU Leipzig offers four undergraduate programmes and 1 postgraduate taught programme. The student population at LU Leipzig now represents over 100 different nationalities.

In 2023 Lancaster will open a new campus in Indonesia in partnership with Deakin University, Australia.



Key contacts

The **British Council** works with governments and partners in the education, English language and cultural sectors, in the UK and globally.
W: britishcouncil.org



Independent Higher Education (IHE) is the UK membership organisation and national representative body for independent providers of higher education, professional training, and pathways.
W: ihe.ac.uk

**INDEPENDENT
HIGHER
EDUCATION**

Universities UK International is the collective voice of the UK's universities and has over 140 member universities. They bring universities together in all four nations of the UK to foster collaboration, exchange insight and influence policy.
W: international.ac.uk



English language

English is a global language for communication. It is the principal language for business, technology, and international relations.

The work of the English language sector internationally

There are around 2.3 billion people learning English globally³. Governments worldwide are looking for support to improve English in their education systems.

Drawing upon the combined skills and experience of UK English language training (ELT) organisations, from specialist language training providers to globally recognised institutions such as the British Council, Cambridge English, Oxford University Press and Pearson, the UK can provide bespoke training at all levels to improve the standards of English.

PRELIM PROJECT: UK ELT SUPPORTING TEACHING IN ENGLISH AROUND THE WORLD

The Partnered Remote Language Improvement project (PRELIM) supports the development of teachers using English across the world. Funded by the British Council and run in partnership with International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language, (IATEFL) and English UK, with Norwich Institute for Language Education (NILE) as managing consultants, the latest PRELIM project supports the development of classroom resources using teachers' local contexts and curricula in 25 countries. All projects are delivered by an Accreditation UK centre that works with IATEFL-associated English Teaching Associations in each participating nation.

Support available to international partners

Developing English systems: Systems to improve standards of English teaching, learning and assessment and the teaching of other subjects. Using technology to break down barriers to inclusion through research and projects.



Training teachers of English: Professional development of individual teachers and teacher educators to equip them with the skills they need to effectively teach in English.



Teaching English to all ages: Courses, lessons and activities for children and adults which lead to internationally recognised qualifications.



Corporate training for businesses: Practical and engaging training and development solutions to empower workforces with English language skills.



Key contacts

English UK is the UK membership organisation and national representative body for English language training providers.
W: englishuk.com



3 'The Future of English: Global Perspectives' British Council, 2020

Teacher training

Children learn best with brilliant teachers at the front of the classroom. That's why teacher training is so important.

The UK's teacher training expertise

UK teacher training providers are experienced in creating excellent teacher development systems and transforming the support teachers receive at every stage of their career – all the way from initial teacher training and early career support to specialisations and school leadership.

The ongoing professional development of teachers is fundamentally important for education quality and has been shown to improve teacher satisfaction and retention. Teaching practice based on an up-to-date, and deep understanding of relevant evidence is a hallmark of a high-quality education system, and crucial for pupils' learning outcomes.



SENIOR ENGLISH TEACHERS MENTORING PROJECT – UKRAINE

In this consultancy for the British Council, NILE and TransformELT developed and delivered a mentoring programme and training course for senior teachers in 100 schools across Ukraine. The great impact of this programme has meant it will be rolled out to teachers of other subjects, as well as English teachers in other schools.

Support available to international partners



Developing initial teacher training systems: Systems to improve recruitment, retention and standards of teaching, learning and assessment.



Teacher qualifications: International qualified teacher status (iQTS) is a teaching qualification backed by the Department for Education (DfE) and the UK government. iQTS meets the same high standards as English qualified teacher status (QTS) and leads to the automatic award of QTS. Applicants for iQTS train where they live and work, with no need to visit the UK.



Training teachers in English as a Medium of Education (EME): Professional development of individual teachers and teacher educators to equip them with the skills they need to effectively teach in English.



Professional development: Delivering micro-qualifications and training for teachers throughout their professional journey, developing their confidence in pedagogical and methodological approaches.



School leadership: Training to bridge the gap between teaching and managing and develop the leadership skills to take departments and organisations forward is critical to institutional success.

Key contacts

The UK Skills Partnership is a collective representing the technical and vocational education and training sector of the United Kingdom.

W: ukskillspartnership.org.uk

Special educational needs and disabilities services

Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) services in the UK are a crucial aspect of the education system, aiming to provide inclusive and equitable opportunities for all learners.

The work of the SEND sector internationally

UK Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) providers collaborate with other countries through partnerships, training programmes, and consultancy services to share best practices, knowledge and expertise in the field of SEND.

The National Association for Special Educational Needs (nasen) is a charitable membership organisation that supports special educational needs coordinators, senior leaders, teachers, teaching assistants and others to become effective, inclusive practitioners.

Support available to international partners

- **International membership:** Targeted at practitioners and education establishments across the globe, members receive access to continuous professional development training, resources and consultancy services.
- **Policy guidance and development:** Review of existing policies, co-development of new strategies to enable a comprehensive inclusion policy, helping to raise awareness and challenge misconceptions, supporting government commitment to inclusion.
- **Leadership & expertise:** Lead and collaborate on large-scale educational development projects, providing expertise on inclusion internationally.
- **Building capability:** Universal and bespoke training opportunities for teachers and leaders in international and national schools worldwide – galvanising them to improve their special educational needs and disabilities provision through high quality, accessible teaching, and to support their host country's progress towards inclusion.



NASEN SUPPORTS SYSTEMIC CHANGE IN THE UAE

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) called upon nasen to conduct a short, deep-dive training needs assessment of the country's special educational needs provision, conducted through literature and data scoping, surveys, focus groups, interviews and school observations.

The resulting analysis offered a clear direction for strategic development at all levels within the education system. The findings influenced change on both a strategic and policy level, supporting the UAE's Vision 2021, and forming part of the evidence-base for the progression of special educational policy in the country.

Key contacts

nasen is a charitable membership organisation that exists to support and champion those working with, and for, children and young people with SEND and learning differences.

W: nasen.org.uk

Education & skills partners: Certificating Bodies

Awarding organisations are experts in developing high-quality qualifications that meet the needs of employers and learners. They approve centres and work with them to ensure high quality delivery of qualifications and carry out activity designed to assure the quality of qualifications.

The work of awarding organisations internationally

Awarding organisations work closely with international partners, governments, and institutions to develop and accredit qualifications that meet the needs of different countries.

As of 2024, the Federation of Awarding Bodies (FAB) estimates that around 90 regulated awarding organisations are active in overseas markets. The Ofqual Annual Qualifications Market Report highlighted that a total 6.7 million certificates were awarded for 2,600 different regulated qualifications to students outside the UK over the 2021 to 2022 academic year. This was up by 17% compared to the previous year.

Support available to international partners

Awarding organisations work across a number of regions to provide:

- **Qualifications:** Internationally recognised qualifications delivered globally through approved centres. Qualifications are designed to meet the needs of learners and employers in specific regions while maintaining an international standard.
- **Quality assurance & accreditation:** Development of quality assurance systems, procedures and accreditation of centres to achieve recognised standards that build and maintain quality provision.
- **Recognition:** Recognition of existing training provision assessed against a quality standard, including face-to-face, e-learning, assessed and non-assessed programmes.
- **Digital credentials:** Digital badges or micro-credentials to evidence specific competencies and knowledge acquired by learners, helping individuals to enhance their career prospects, while also helping employers to identify skilled talent to meet their workforce needs.
- **Consultancy:** Technical advice to develop and address educational policy, national skills strategies and industry needs. Tailored solutions in training, mapping, compliance and capacity building.

Q-UK, the UK Qualifications Exports Register operated by FAB showcases qualifications and other products/services that are available for export such as resources, research, and consultancy.

Bridging educational gaps to empower Jamaican learners with City & Guilds and the Ministry of Education

In 2010, facing similar educational struggles, City & Guilds and Jamaica's Ministry of Education first began their working relationship. With over 30,000 students navigating limited opportunities, especially for Maths and English qualifications, through carefully tailored programmes and support, the partnership sought to uplift Jamaican youth. Recognised by key institutions, City & Guilds qualifications have quietly reshaped the educational landscape, empowering learners across Jamaica.

Key contacts

The **Federation of Awarding Bodies (FAB)** is the trade association for UK awarding bodies.

W: awarding.org.uk



**FEDERATION OF
AWARDING BODIES**

Education & skills partners: Sector Bodies

UK Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) and National Skills Academies (NSAs) are employer-led skills organisations covering approximately 90% of the UK workforce. They work with over half a million employers to define skills needs and skills standards providing industry-driven skills solutions.

The work of sector skills councils internationally

Through the umbrella organisation UK Skills Federation, SSCs and NSAs support the development of technical vocational education and training to support youth employability, workforce development, productivity and economic growth across the globe.

Support available to international partners

As industry-led organisations, SSCs are ideally placed to represent and to galvanise employer investment in skills, and to deliver TVET solutions in a range of areas:

- **Sector skills insights:** Research and consultations with key stakeholders within a sector to provide valuable insights on the sector's regional significance, sought-after occupations and skills and career pathways.
- **Sectoral approach to skills:** Recommendations to outline the routes to establish a sustainable skills development ecosystem. Support to setup and strengthen the structure of a sector skills body.
- **Demand-led TVET strategy:** Baseline assessment, roadmap and action plan to promote more effective cooperation and coordination between the private and public sector to connect education and training to labour market needs.
- **Industry-led standards and curriculum:** Development of nation-specific occupational standards using expertise from specific industry sectors. Writing and enhancing staff capability in developing technical and vocational curriculum and qualifications.
- **Apprenticeship strategy and development:** Development of industry-driven apprenticeship frameworks and standards. Imparting best practice on apprenticeship models and building capacity of TVET practitioners.
- **Industry-driven skills solutions & partnerships:** Co-designed, targeted solutions that anticipate the current and future skills needs, using innovative delivery models, and collaborative partnerships.

Supporting the integration of Syrian refugees into the local economy in Jordan

To provide Syrian refugees and their host communities with sustainable livelihoods, People 1st International partnered with European Bank for Reconstruction & Development, Jordan Education for Employment and Abdali Mall Company to deliver a work readiness and technical training programme.

121 young Syrians undertook the programme and received advice and support on applying for a work permit plus benefited from a job-matching service to support transition into employment in the retail and hospitality sectors, with 75% of participants securing employment.



Key contacts

UK Skills Federation represents the international work of the UK Sector Skills Councils and National Skills Academies
W: ukskills.org

Education & skills partners: Professional Institutes

UK Chartered institutes are professional bodies that have been granted a Royal Charter. They offer membership to qualified professionals who have demonstrated a high level of expertise and knowledge in their specialist areas. A number provide regulatory control of employees operating in regulated professions. They also offer training, education and networking opportunities to help members enhance their skills.

The work of chartered institutes internationally

Around 400 Royal Charters have been granted to bodies offering education provision in different industry sectors. With a strong presence in over 110 countries, chartered institutes contribute towards building a skilled workforce that meets global standards by promoting professional standards and enhancing the knowledge and skills of individuals, supporting national strategies.

Support available to international partners

Chartered institutes provide opportunities for high value partnerships with universities, government and employers across the globe. They offer:

- **Professional membership:** International membership for individuals to demonstrate industry specific professionalism to others, particularly to potential employers or clients, as well as access to member benefits.
- **Accreditation to develop and strengthen skills:** Accreditation of existing academic and in-house employer training programmes through mapping to chartered institute qualifications.
- **Qualifications to strengthen the education offer:** UK-regulated qualifications delivered through local partners, with formal recognition by chartered institutes to learners completing the programme.
- **Continuous professional development & learner enrichment:** Access to learning and professional development. Tools, resources, events and support to learners undertaking chartered institute qualifications or accredited programmes. Opportunity to achieve a recognised professional qualification and Chartered Status.
- **Capacity building:** Local capacity building through the standardisation of assessment, collaborations to share best practices, drive innovation, and develop industry-specific guidelines and regulations.

PUTRA BUSINESS SCHOOL PARTNERS WITH CHARTERED MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

Putra Business School (PBS), based in Malaysia, is an exclusive postgraduate university offering specialised programmes in business and management. PBS partnered with the Chartered Management Institute (CMI) to offer the CMI qualification alongside their MBA. As CMI is the only body able to offer Chartered Status, their qualifications now put learners on a pathway to becoming Chartered Managers. This partnership with an internationally recognised professional body has raised the profile of PBS in the marketplace.



Key contacts

W: ukskillspartnership.org.uk

Education & skills partners:

Education equipment

The British Educational Suppliers Association (BESA) is the only trade association covering the entirety of the UK educational suppliers' sector. It has a 90-year heritage, and represents over 400 educational suppliers in the UK, including manufacturers and distributors of equipment, books, consumables, furniture, EdTech, ICT hardware and digital-content.

Trade mission to Cambodia

At a BESA 2023 Department for Business & Trade UK Trade Mission, relationships were formed between Everybody Counts and the Ministry of Education in Cambodia, resulting in a transformative project aimed at enhancing teaching methodologies and implementing a math mastery program across the country.



The work of BESA internationally

BESA offers unparalleled support, research, events and advice on both UK and International markets, and the future of the education suppliers' industry. BESA founded the BETT Show in 1985, Gess Dubai in 2007 and the Education World Forum in 2011.

Support available to international partners

Through BESA and its members, international partners can access a wide range of support:

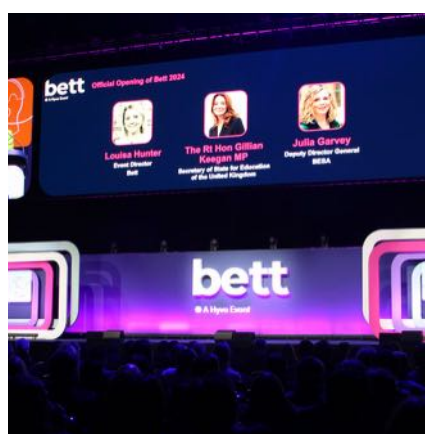
- **Supplier network:** Access to over 400 verified and trusted suppliers based in the UK that can offer manufacturing and distribution of equipment, materials, books, consumables, furniture, ICT hardware and EdTech.
- **International education network:** Introductions to Ministries of Education and school leaders internationally.
- **Speaking experts:** Education and supplier experts to provide insight on the UK education sector, trends and areas of strengths, developments in the EdTech industry and future direction of travel.
- **Tradeshow presence:** UK companies to exhibit and contribute to events in a host country to enable school leaders to identify and access suitable solutions.
- **Supplier attendance at trade missions:** UK education suppliers to meet with ministers, procurement agencies and school leaders to explore ways of working together in order to meet the educational needs of the host country.
- **Training and consultancy:** Bespoke solutions such as teacher training programmes that enable fast growing education systems to quickly build a pool of domestic teachers so they can scale their education offering.

Key contacts

W: besa.org.uk

Education & skills partners: EdTech suppliers

EdTech (education technology) providers in the UK play a crucial role in supporting education and skills by using innovative technological solutions. These providers offer a wide range of tools and platforms to enhance learning, such as virtual classrooms, interactive learning materials, and assessment tools.



Bett UK 2024

There was great interest in British Educational Suppliers Association (BESA) and their members exhibiting at Bett UK in January 2024, with four Education and Trade Ministers in attendance. The annual Bett Awards once again showcased the best of UK and international EdTech, providing a positive networking hub to connect educators and suppliers. Visitors and exhibition stands were present from across the globe including Europe, the Middle East, Latin America, and Southeast Asia. BESA also facilitated a pre-Bett International Briefing Day for overseas visitors.

The work of BESA internationally

UK EdTech providers play a crucial role in supporting international markets by offering innovative and high-quality products and services to cater to the diverse needs of students, educators, and institutions around the world. With tailored offerings for each market's own unique set of requirements they provide multilingual platforms, localised content, and tailored support.

In 2023 BESA supported 12 International events with a strong EdTech focus in Vietnam, Turkey, USA, Brazil, Cambodia, India, Amsterdam, Dubai, Hong Kong, Thailand and more.

Support available to international partners

- **Access to EdTech suppliers:** Consisting of over a hundred EdTech member companies, BESA's EdTech Special Interest Group fosters innovation and collaboration within the educational technology sector. Resources, tools, equipment, and training provided by members cover all aspects of the learning and teaching journey: from teacher training, through to delivery of learning materials, then to practice and revision, and to high-stakes assessment.
- **Exhibitions, events & webinars:** Supplier attendance at overseas exhibitions, providing onsite support, organising trade missions, webinars, 'meet the buyer' and networking events.
- **Biggest education technology exhibition in the world:** Bett brings together over 30,000 educators from across the entire education landscape and 500+ innovative EdTech and resource solution providers showcasing cutting-edge and impactful products and services.
- **Insights and expertise:** Insights on opportunities, training, research, and market reports. Master-classes bringing together industry experts, thought leaders, and successful exporters to share knowledge, experiences, and best practices.

Key contacts

W: besa.org.uk

Education & skills partners: British Council

The British Council works with governments and partners in the education, English language and cultural sectors, in the UK and globally. The British Council occupies a trusted position and strong reputation in local country contexts, where they have worked in partnership for mutual benefit with governments and sector stakeholders for many years and are often their first point of contact when connecting with the UK.

The work of the British Council internationally

The British Council is respected for in-country knowledge, insight and advice on local English and education systems and the ability to identify potential partners overseas. Global sector knowledge and connections, on-the-ground presence, and market insight in over 100 countries give them access to a unique network of experts.

Support available to international partners

The British Council provides a wide range of solutions to markets that are looking to develop and strengthen their education and skills offer:

- **Student mobility, scholarships and alumni:** Facilitation to enable students to study and train in the UK.
- **Education partnerships:** Facilitation of higher education, TVET, science and school partnerships between the UK and other countries to develop better quality, more inclusive and globally connected education systems.
- **Non-formal education:** Empowering young people and future leaders through skills development to contribute to trust-building, cohesion and stability in their societies and to represent their communities on a local and national stage.
- **Improving standards of English:** Improving standards of English teaching, learning and assessment and the teaching of other subjects. Support for girls' empowerment, agency, and voice through working with community support organisations to develop peer learning groups for girls to develop English and digital skills.
- **English teaching, learning & assessment:** Support and professional development of individual teachers and teacher educators. Providing English language assessment through International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

DEVELOPING STRONGER, MORE INCLUSIVE AND GLOBALLY CONNECTED HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEMS

The British Council enhance the scale and impact of transnational education and the acceptance of UK qualifications internationally through their Going Global Partnerships programme, working closely with the Department for Education (DfE) and Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) in the UK and in-country. This includes influencing removal of barriers, creating enabling environment and building on the mutual recognition of qualifications (MRQ) agreements. The UK-India MRQ in 2022 and TNE Guidelines in Nigeria are examples to foster student mobility and improving quality assurance of higher education programmes. In 2023–24, they will provide funding opportunities that will support over 100 UK and 280 international universities and colleges to develop partnerships in higher education, research and to strengthen capacity.

Key contacts

W: britishcouncil.org



Accessing expertise and support

The organisations highlighted provide a routeway through to a multitude of world-renowned education and skills specialists. By engaging with these organisations, international partners and governments can gain access to invaluable knowledge and resources that can aid in transforming their own education systems. These experts bring with them a wealth of experience and proven strategies, enabling countries to strengthen their education and skills infrastructure and cultivate a highly skilled workforce.

UK Skills Partnership

UK Skills Partnership brings together the leading education and skills organisations. Together, they share the UK's expertise and experience and offer collaborative, high impact and world class skills solutions. Connections, expertise and collaborative solutions can be coordinated through UKSP.

W: ukskillspartnership.org.uk

Department for Education (DfE)

DfE is responsible for children's services and education in England. Internationally, our ambitions are rooted in a desire to build lasting and positive education relationships around the world. DfE supports the growth of the UK education sector globally through its international partnerships work, the UK's International Education Strategy, and the International Education Champion, Sir Steve Smith.

W: gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education

Department for Business & Trade (DBT)

DBT is the UK government department that supports businesses to invest, grow and export, creating jobs and opportunities across the country. The DBT Education team works closely with Embassies and High Commissions to support the UK education sector to grow and succeed internationally. It leads trade missions, both into the UK and overseas, in order to develop bilateral relations and trade partnerships in the education sector.

W: great.gov.uk | E: dbt-education@businessandtrade.gov.uk

UK Embassies & High Commissions

The UK has Embassies and Missions in 179 Countries and Territories around the world. Many of these Posts have DBT commercial advisers.

W: gov.uk/world/embassies

Expertise at specific levels of the education and skills system

Early years: eyalliance.org.uk

Schools: See associations listed under 'Key contacts' on page 10

Technical vocational education and training: ukskillspartnership.org.uk

Higher education: ihe.ac.uk | international.ac.uk | ucas.com | advance-he.ac.uk

Transnational education: ihe.ac.uk | international.ac.uk | britishcouncil.org

English language: englishuk.com

Special educational needs and disabilities services: nasen.org.uk

Education publishing services: publishers.org.uk



UK Skills Partnership

www.ukskillspartnership.org.uk