

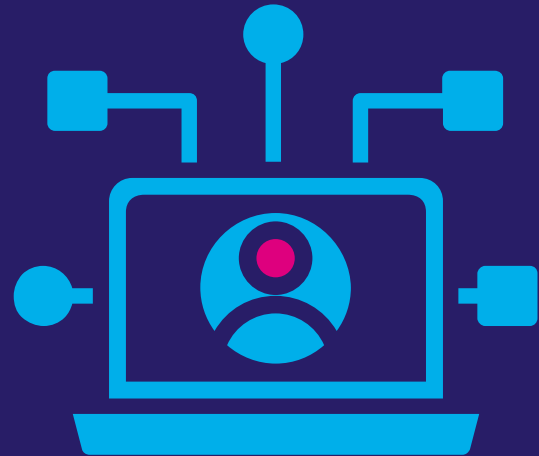
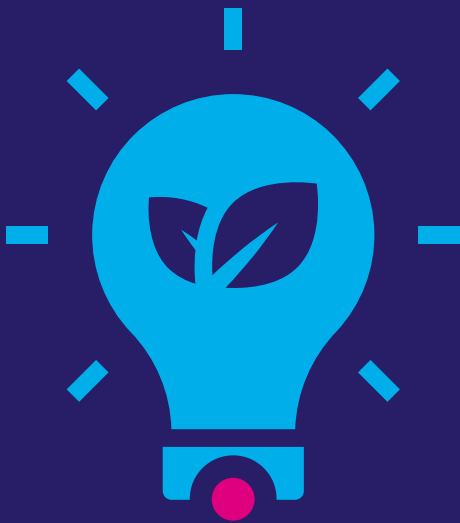
# Alumni UK Live

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## Your professional development festival

6–7 December 2023



#AlumniUK



We look forward to welcoming you to the second edition of Alumni UK Live.

We are pleased to share the first look of the programme for the virtual event next month.

Please keep your eyes open for programme updates over the coming weeks.



# Programme Overview

## Wednesday 6 December

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 09.30–09.35 UK time | Welcome with Kate Ewart-Biggs OBE   |
| 09.35–10.20 UK time | Journey to leadership: in conversation with Professor David Mba                                 |
| 11.30–12.30 UK time | How business can tackle the climate crisis  |
| 13.00–14.00 UK time | The role of technology in social impact   |
| 14.30–15.30 UK time | The power of transformative actions in shaping mindsets and policies                            |
| 16.00–17.00 UK time | <i>Practical career workshop</i><br>Leading with joy: mindful integration for a joyous tomorrow |
| 18.00–19.00 UK time | Careers reimaged: from conventions to pioneers  |
| 20.00–21.00 UK time | Gender equality: dismantling the glass ceiling  |

## Thursday 7 December

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 08.00–09.00 UK time | From student to professional: the secret of soft skills                |
| 09.30–10.30 UK time | <i>Practical career workshop</i><br>Wellbeing and emotional resilience |
| 12.30–13.30 UK time | Entrepreneurship: your questions answered                              |
| 14.00–15.00 UK time | AI in the workplace: are we ready?                                     |
| 15.00 UK time       | Closing remarks  |



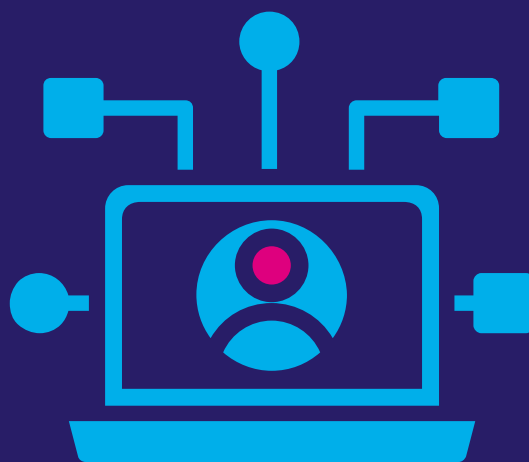
# Share and connect in the Networking Hub

Over the two days you will have the opportunity to connect with universities and British Council programmes via booths and chat rooms in the Networking Hub.

In the booths you'll find information about university alumni programmes and future opportunities available to you from Alumni UK and other British Council initiatives.

In the chat rooms, you will be able to talk to other attendees and representatives from universities and the British Council and make connections to develop and enhance your career.

Further information about the universities and British Council programmes participating will be announced prior to the event.



# Wednesday 6 December

09.30–09.35  
UK time

## Welcome with Kate Ewart-Biggs OBE

09.35–10.20  
UK time

## Journey to leadership: in conversation with Professor David Mba

During the opening session of Alumni UK Live, Professor David Mba shares his inspiring leadership journey from graduating with a first class degree in engineering, washing cars, to becoming Vice-Chancellor of Birmingham City University. Today, Mba is a champion for equity, passionately supporting the university's 30,000 students and staff to overcome socio-economic challenges, and driving social mobility through practice-based learning. Hear about his fascinating journey to leadership and learn his tips for success.



### Professor David Mba

Vice-Chancellor, Birmingham City University

David Mba is the Vice-Chancellor of Birmingham City University (BCU). He joined BCU from University of the Arts London (UAL), where he was Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Knowledge Exchange and Enterprise. Prior to his role at UAL, Professor Mba held senior leadership posts at Cranfield University, London South Bank University and De Montfort University, where he held Pro-Vice-Chancellor positions.

A Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, as well as a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, he is a Professor of Mechanical Engineering and has led numerous commercial and publicly funded research projects, culminating in over 300 journal and conference publications. He was awarded the Institution of Mechanical Engineers Ludwig Mond Prize in 2010 for his contributions to the chemistry industry. He serves on the advisory board of the Association for Black and Minority Ethnic Engineers.



### Kate Ewart-Biggs OBE (Chair)

Deputy Chief Executive Officer, British Council

Kate is the Deputy Chief Executive of the British Council. Throughout her career, including work in Africa, Europe and Western Asia, she has supported the British Council's purpose – to build connections, understanding and trust between the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language. Prior to being named Deputy Chief Executive, Kate was Director Global Network – responsible for managing strategic relationships with Whitehall partners and giving British Council staff overseas a strong support network at home. Before joining the British Council, she worked for organisations improving life for street children around the world.

**11.30–12.30  
UK time**

## How business can tackle the climate crisis

In the context of differing political opinions and governmental approaches towards the urgency of tackling the climate crisis, what is the role for business? Industry and non-governmental leaders will share their perspectives on the green transition and their role to drive change. They will also discuss the skills that are in demand and what will be required in the future.



**Vi Bui**

Climate Finance Researcher, Climate Arc

Vi is a climate finance researcher at Climate Arc, an organisation that aims to mainstream climate science into global financial decision making. She has previously worked as a UNDP Consultant on youth engagement in her home country of Vietnam. She completed her Master's in climate change policy and science at the University of Bristol.



**Stephen Jones**

Adaptation Analyst, Climate Change Committee

Stephen is an Adaptation Analyst at Climate Change Committee, where he is responsible for reviewing policy in Northern Ireland and across the UK. He was previously Resilience Coordinator at Climate Northern Ireland, where he was based for almost a decade, and was involved in developing climate champions, supporting policy and promoting action on climate adaptation and resilience. He gained his Master's in Leadership for Sustainable Development at Queen's University Belfast.



**Desma Natome**

Program Analyst, UNDP

Desma is a Program Analyst for SDG Financing and South-South Cooperation at UNDP in Pretoria, South Africa. She has previously gained experience in tax policy within the Kenya Revenue Authority and at Norad, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation. Desma obtained her Master of Public Policy (MPP) at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford in 2019, and her Bachelor's at Kingston University.



**Karl Belizaire (Chair)**

Policy and Project Lead, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Karl leads a policy and project lead team within the Levelling Up Taskforce. He was previously senior consultant for the Global Social Enterprise programme and Social Enterprise global lead facilitator as part of the Active Citizens programme with the British Council.

**13.00–14.00  
UK time**

## The role of technology in social impact

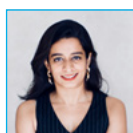
This session will examine how technology can be leveraged to create positive social impact. Drawing on case studies from the social sector in South Asia, the panel will be discussing topics such as digital inclusion, data analytics, and online advocacy.



### Mustak Ayub

Assistant Professor of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology,  
University of Dhaka

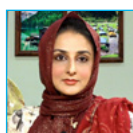
Mustak studied genetic engineering and biotechnology at undergraduate and Master's. He was a recipient of the Commonwealth Scholarship. Mustak completed his PhD in Molecular Oncology from the University of Oxford in 2017, and is currently Assistant Professor at Dhaka University.



### Prerna Mukharya

Founder, Outline India

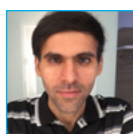
Prerna is the Founder of Outline India, a for-profit social enterprise that works to create social impact through data. The organisation has worked across 28 states and territories, covering 65,000+ villages with over 5.5 million stakeholders across India. Prerna is a Chevening Fellow at Oxford University in 2018 and a Raisina Fellow, awarded by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in 2017. She was featured on Fortune magazine's 40 under 40 for in 2017 and 2018, and was noted as one of the most powerful business women in India in 2019, by Business Today. Her tech product, now called People Pulse, seeks to automate impact measurement for not-for-profits, startups and donors, and has been a winner of the Dell Start Up challenge and the prestigious Alchemist Accelerator programme.



### Dr Sarah Qureshi

CEO and Founder, Aero Engine Craft.

Dr. Sarah Qureshi is a jet engine inventor, an Aerospace Engineer and a hobby pilot. She has a PhD degree in Aerospace Propulsion Engineering from Cranfield University. She is the co-founder and CEO of Aero Engine Craft Private Limited, Pakistan's first commercial jet engine R&D Company developing eco-friendly, contrail-free aircraft engines for the global aviation industry. Her company is the first of its kind in the world developing a contrail mitigation hardware technology to bring about a revolution in air travel. Sarah has been listed among the Top 15 global aerospace professionals to follow on LinkedIn and is ranked among the top 10 most inspiring women in Pakistan. She has won multiple national and international awards for her achievements in the aerospace industry.



### Dr Munir Moosa (Chair)

Assistant Professor of Education, Sindh Madressatul Islam University

Munir is an educator and global socio-educational theorist. He completed a PhD in Education, with a concentration in human rights education. Currently, he serves as an Assistant Professor of Education at Sindh Madressatul Islam University. He is also a founding Volunteer Director of Global Forum for Teacher Educators, where he promotes complementary human rights-centered education to disadvantaged communities. He has been the recipient of the Charles Wallace Trust Fellowship UK and the Commonwealth Distance Education Scholarship 2017. He completed a Master's at The Open University. In 2023, Munir won the British Council's Social Impact Award for the application of his model titled socioethical model of human rights education.

14.30–15.30  
UK time

## The power of transformative actions in shaping mindsets and policies

A workplace that respects equality, diversity and inclusion is a workplace that benefits all employees. During this panel discussion, the inspiring speakers will share their experiences of leading transformative actions to include under-represented groups. They will highlight the impact of these initiatives in the workplace, on the direct beneficiaries as well as those who witnessed or participated in the change. Attendees will learn how they could become agents of change for inclusion, regardless of their experience with discrimination, and how all individuals and workplaces can benefit when equality, diversity and inclusion is effectively implemented.



### Israel Balogun

Accessibility and Inclusion Consultant

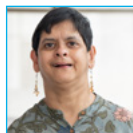
A medical doctor by training, Israel is now a public health and inclusion specialist. He was the winner of the StudyUK Alumni Awards in the Social Action category in 2022, making him the first person with a disability to win this award, and the first Nigerian. Israel is experienced in providing technical support on disability inclusion across health, education, livelihood and governance. He gained his Master's from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and is pursuing a PhD at UCL.



### Robin Davies

Former Country Director - Sudan, British Council

Before retiring in 2022, Robin worked for the British Council for 13 years in a number of countries including The Netherlands, Pakistan and Bangladesh. From 2016 to 2021, he was Country Director at British Council Sudan from 2016-2021. During this time he was closely involved in the design and implementation of EDI policy and programmes at country and regional (Sub-Saharan Africa) levels.



### Jeeja Ghosh

Disability Advocacy Expert, EnAble India

Jeeja is a Manager at EnAble India, and was previously head of advocacy at the Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy and coordinator of the Disability Rights Initiative at Human Rights Law Network. She has almost two decades of experience working in the disability sector in India. She is a trainer in advocacy and leadership building for persons with disabilities, and is skilled at bringing different stakeholders together. She gained a Master's in Disability Studies from Leeds University.



**Zara Todd**

Equity and Inclusion Consultant

Zara is a disability activist and equity and inclusion expert specialising in training, participation and leadership. As an independent consultant, she works with a range of organisations providing them with advice and consultancy on policy, research, organisational change and strategic development. Zara graduated from UCL and Lancaster University.

**Oluwaseun Ayodeji Osowobi (Chair)**

Executive Director, Stand to End Rape Initiative

Oluwaseun is a multi-award winning gender equality advocate with six years of experience in deploying effective solutions to challenge systemic social barriers that promote violence against women and girls. Her work utilises social and behavior change communication to improve SGBV knowledge, attitudes, and practices. She is a Young Leader for the Sustainable Development Goals endorsed by the United Nations, TIME 100 NEXT Honouree, and the Executive Director of Stand to End Rape Initiative (STER).

**16.00–17.00**  
**UK time**

## ***Practical career workshop*** **Leading with joy: mindful integration** **for a joyous tomorrow**

In this transformative era dominated by hybrid intelligence, we're positioned at the intersection of new challenges and vast possibilities. Rather than simply adjusting to new norms, how might we choose a path that brings about profound, positive change? During this session, Marty will offer a pragmatic blueprint, drawing on mindfulness, philosophy, psychology, arts and cutting-edge technology, on how to create a life brimming with long-term purpose and direction, but also filled with everyday joys.

**Marty Zalewski**

Impact-focused global business leader, author and speaker

Marty is a visionary leader and an expert speaker on transformative global leadership and mindfulness. With 25 years of experience in leading global ventures at Firstpoint, Lloyds Banking Group and General Electric, his pioneering spirit is most evident in his 'Leading with Joy' philosophy. Marty is an advocate of value creation in business by combining human design-led processes with hybrid intelligence to drive innovation, social and environmental impact, and sustainable profitability. He shares regular insights through his newsletter, and hosts a podcast titled 'Leading with Joy', which is available on all major platforms.

**18.00–19.00**  
**UK time**

## Careers reimaged: from conventions to pioneers

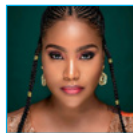
This panel session will inspire, inform, and motivate by providing insights into how you can forge innovative and unique career journeys. Hear from UK alumni who have successfully embraced non-traditional career paths, gain a deeper understanding of the evolving job market and the confidence to consider alternative career choices.



**Cherubim Mawuli Amenyedor**

Founder & President, Strimpe

Cherubim is a digital strategist and digital social innovator based in Ghana. He is the Founder and President of Strimpe, which provides digital transformation interventions for industry and academia through its projects, programmes and thought leadership. He was previously the Head of Digital Analytics and Transformation at BTL Africa, where he led digital marketers, visual designers and content creators to provide engaging marketing experiences for clients across Africa, including Twitter Ghana, Budweiser and Diageo. He gained his Master's in Digital Marketing at Robert Gordon University.



**Adanna Ifeoma Enwezor**

Executive Director, Photizo Life Foundation and Founder, African Hair Summit

Adanna has over 13 years of experience working with youths, children and women on social development and mental health within the NGO sector. She is the Executive Director of Photizo Life Foundation, an NGO committed to improving wellness, mental and social wellbeing of Africans. She convenes the African Hair Summit, which is a popular annual festival that promotes the hair and beauty industry. Her work has been recognised by the African Union (AU), the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture in Nigeria, and supported by ECOWAS, among many others.



**Rose Nzyoka**

Country Representative - Kenya, Palladium

Rose is the Kenya Country Representative for Palladium, a strategic consultancy group that operates in over 90 countries. She is an experienced public health professional with more than 20 years of experience in supporting public health and health informatics interventions in various capacities in Kenya, South Sudan, Zambia, and Swaziland working with Ministries of Health and projects funded by USAID, CDC, UNICEF, Hellen Keller Foundation, and Caritas International among other donors. She completed a Master's in Information Systems from the University of Sunderland.

20.00–21.00  
UK time

## Gender equality: dismantling the glass ceiling

What are the cultural and societal factors in Latin America that act as barriers to women in the workplace? Are there policies and initiatives that have been successful in promoting gender equality and breaking the glass ceiling? Women CEOs and senior leaders from across Latin America reflect on how they empower others to thrive in the workplace, sharing their insights and advice for young leaders.



### Dr Minerva Ledezma-Martínez

Professor of Chemical Engineering, Tecnológico de Monterrey

Minerva is a Professor in chemical engineering at Mexico's Tecnológico de Monterrey. She completed her PhD at the University of Manchester, where she developed a new design methodology to optimise the crude oil distillation process. Minerva was previously the Women's Leadership Forum (WLF) global Co-chair and part of the LatinX Forum. She currently volunteers on the leadership team of the Research and Innovation Community of Practice at the Institution of Chemical Engineers in the UK. In January 2023, she was selected as a Science Mentee, an initiative of British Council Mexico to boost the academic development of young researchers.



### Julieth Sanclamente

Lawyer, Garrigues

Julieth is a senior associate lawyer in the Competition Law, Consumer Protection, Personal Data Protection and Intellectual Property practices, based in Bogotá. She obtained her Master of Laws (LLM) from the London School of Economics and Political Science, focusing on Competition, Innovation and Commercial Law.



### Angela Pires Tertó

Human Rights Officer, UN Human Rights

Angela is a human rights officer at UN Human Rights, where she has worked for over a decade. She completed her Master of Laws (LLM) in international human rights and humanitarian law from the University of Essex.



### Isabel Gil (Chair)

Cultural Engagement Lead and Head of Arts - Mexico, British Council

For over a decade, Isabel has developed a career at the intersection of creative industries, entrepreneurship, cultural urbanism and innovation. She has experience in different fields across the value chain of the creative economy: she has served as a consultant for corporate projects such as José Cuervo, Coca Cola, Fundación Televisa, for entrepreneurs and seed capital funds such as Numa México and ALLVP, public cultural institutions including Museo Nacional de Arte, and government offices such as Mexico's Ministry of Culture and Presidential Office. She is also an experienced producer and radio broadcaster. Isabel holds an MA in Cultural & Creative Industries from King's College London.

# Thursday 7 December

**08.00–09.00**  
**UK time**

## From student to professional: the secret of soft skills

The dynamics of employment markets are being reshaped globally by the rapid pace of digitisation and in East Asia, and by the growing prominence of the service sector. This session will explore the changing landscape of job opportunities, giving practical insights into how UK alumni are successfully navigating these evolving markets.



### Jirayut (Topp) Srupsrisopa

Founder and Group CEO, Bitkub Capital Group Holdings

Topp is the Founder and Group CEO of Bitkub Capital Group Holdings, Thailand's leading company in blockchain technology and digital assets. Bitkub Capital Group provides advisory and trading services. He is one of Thailand's leading bitcoin and open blockchain experts with more than 8 years of experience in the blockchain industry. He is an Executive Board Member and Vice President at the Thai Fintech Association, and a Subcommittee member at Thailand's Office of the Trade Competition Commission. He received an Honorary Doctorate Degree of Philosophy in Digital Economy from Rangsit University. He is a graduate of the University of Manchester and Oxford University.



### Molly Wong

General Manager, PwC Acceleration Centre Kuala Lumpur

Molly is a Partner of PwC Malaysia and currently the General Manager of PwC Acceleration Centre Kuala Lumpur (AC KL). She has over 20 years of experience in professional services firm management at PwC, with a foundation in finance, tax and external audit. Prior to AC KL, she was a member of PwC Malaysia's Country Management Team and had oversight of Finance and Operations across PwC Malaysia and Vietnam. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and member of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants. She is an alumna of Middlesex University.



### Jazreel Goh (Chair)

Country Director - Malaysia, British Council

Jazreel is an expert in socio-economics research and marketing consultancy, and leads the East Asia Consulting Team. In 2011 she set up the British Council's Education Intelligence Unit – the first e-marketing platform dedicated to international education research for the global industry.

**09.30–10.30  
UK time**

## **Practical career workshop Wellbeing and emotional resilience**

In today's corporate landscape, ensuring wellbeing and emotional resilience is paramount. Join this industry masterclass to explore the intricacies of balancing business objectives with employee needs, prioritising individual wellness, sustaining productivity and positivity, advancing employee career support and bolstering emotional resilience during times of change.



**Victoria McLean**

CEO, Hanover Talent Solutions and City CV

Passionate about careers, empowerment and DE&I, Victoria's mission is to change lives, supercharge careers and transform organisations. Frequently featured as a careers expert in leading media, Victoria regularly wins major industry awards. She runs workshop and webinar programmes for many global corporates and is in high demand as an international keynote speaker.

**12.30–13.30  
UK time**

## **Entrepreneurship: your questions answered**

Hear successful entrepreneurs and business leaders share their insights and experiences and shed light on the role that their UK education played in shaping their entrepreneurial journeys. From where and how to start, making your idea a reality, to keeping momentum, and scaling up, the panel will equip you with the knowledge and confidence to succeed, and will answer your burning questions about entrepreneurship.



**Dr Reem Al Torki**

Head of Operation - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, LEK Consulting

Reem currently leads operations for LEK Consulting in KSA, where she is involved in securing partnerships and future projects for LEK in the MENA region. She also leads in expanding current activity for LEK in sectors including oil and gas, education, health, innovation, tourism, logistics, and aviation. Reem was previously Education Director at the Ministry of Investment. She is an alumnus of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, where she completed her Master's and PhD studies.



**Abedalrahman Alzghoul**

Founder/CEO, Recycling for Education

Abedalrahman is an innovator and entrepreneur in Jordan, where he is the Founder and CEO of Recycling for Education. He has many years of experience in business leadership, as well as youth activism in education, environment, and youth empowerment. He has served as a youth adviser and youth ambassador for the World Bank, Government of Jordan, and the Arab Thought Foundation. Abedalrahman completed his MBA at the University of Sunderland, where he specialised in leadership and social innovation.

**Karim El Safty**

Higher Education Expert,  
International Academy for Advanced Research and Studies

Karim is a higher education professional with 20 years of experience working internationally. He is currently Middle East Regional Director for the UK-based International Academy for Advanced Research and Studies and CEO for the Finnish Consortium for International Education. He has been part of many international education projects and has expertise in employability, entrepreneurship, technical and professional education reforms. Karim completed his Master's at Kingston University.

**Passant Saied**

Founder/CEO, PAF Dolls

Passant is Founder/CEO of PAF Dolls, which makes soft dolls drawing on Egyptian culture. After 12 years in the public sector, she followed her passion and became an entrepreneur in 2017. The company supports disadvantaged women to create the dolls from their homes, enabling them to continue with caretaking responsibilities. Passant is a board member of Business Women of Egypt 21, which helps women entrepreneurs to start and grow their business. She completed her MBA at Herriott Watt University.

**Sue Milner (Chair)**

MENA Regional Director for Education and English, British Council

Sue is the Regional Director for Education and English in the MENA region for the British Council. She previously held education roles within the British Council in China and the East Asia region. She completed her Master's in development economics and international development at the University of Manchester.

**14.00–15.00  
UK time**

## AI in the workplace: are we ready?

The continued rise of the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the workplace is now inevitable. Having evolved quickly in recent years, AI is being used in a variety of industries, including healthcare, finance, media, marketing, manufacturing, and logistics. In this panel discussion, hear from experts on how AI is changing the workplace, and what we need to know about these developments.



**Dr Lilian (Evangelia) Balatsou**

Speech Engineer, Vodafone

Lilian specialises in the intersection between AI and language, and has been involved in reinventing the way voicebots and chatbots communicate with humans, within the banking and telecommunications sectors in the EU. She is passionate about how AI can help small and large businesses serve their customers better and she helps companies to create tools and strategies to achieve that. She completed her Master's at University of Edinburgh and a PhD in Cognitive Neuroscience from Bangor University.



**Cihan Altay**

Data Science Manager, Türkiye İş Bankası

Cihan is Head of AI Project Management and Delivery at Türkiye İş Bankası, where he leads a team of engagement managers, data translators, product owners, and project managers to identify and explore value-added business opportunities using AI. With more than 15 years of experience in financial services, he has a strong background in credit risk management, business analysis and data science. He gained a Master of Laws (LLM) in international law from the University of Edinburgh.

**15.00 UK time**

## Closing remarks



**Maddalaine Ansell**

Director of Education, British Council

Maddalaine is currently Director Education at the British Council. Prior to this, she was Chief Executive of University Alliance and the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, where she worked closely with Lord David Willetts, then Minister for Science and Universities. Maddalaine is a graduate of Emmanuel College, Cambridge and trained and practiced as a lawyer in large international legal practices before joining the civil service.

**Alumni UK is the global network for people from around the world who have studied in the UK as an overseas student.**

[www.alumniuk.britishcouncil.org](http://www.alumniuk.britishcouncil.org)

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