

IMPERIAL WORKSHOP · 3–4 JULY 2026

# Conscious *Futures* in Higher Education

*A high-level international forum on AI-led transformation, governance, integrity, and the future of the university*

DATE	VENUE	DAY 1	DAY 2
3–4 July 2026 Friday – Saturday	Imperial College London Skempton Building, South Kensington	Public Lecture Complimentary · Registration required	Invitation-Only Roundtables · Chatham House Rule

## ABOUT THIS EVENT

*A policy-relevant forum where university leaders, academics, and quality assurance actors explore how higher education should respond to AI-led transformation — without weakening standards, public trust, or the broader educational mission of the university.*

- Institutional renewal & public purpose
- Future readiness & graduate capability
- Imperial Statement on Conscious Futures
- AI governance by design
- Data and institutional trust
- Assessment and integrity

ORGANISED BY



SOCIAL HUMANITIES  
BASIC SCIENCES  
ACCREDITATION and  
RATING ASSOCIATION



## PROGRAMME

## Day 1 — Public Lecture

Venue: SKEM 164 · Skempton Building · Imperial College London | Friday, 3 July 2026

TIME	SESSION
14:30 – 15:00	Registration and networking
15:00 – 15:30	<b>Welcome Remarks</b> <a href="#">Prof Fırat Güder</a> · Director   Güder Research Group, Imperial College London <b>TBC</b> <a href="#">Dr İsmail Erkam Tüzgen</a> · President   Social Humanities Basic Sciences Accreditation & Rating Association (STAR) <a href="#">Prof Recep Sentürk</a> · Dean   Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) <a href="#">Prof Atilla Arkan</a> · President   Ibn Haldun University (IHU)
15:30 – 16:00	<b>Opening Remarks</b> <a href="#">Abdullah Eren</a> · President   Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) <a href="#">Prof Ümit Kocabağ</a> · President   Turkish Higher Education Quality Council (YÖKAK) <b>TBC</b> <a href="#">Prof Erol Özvar</a> · President   Turkish Council of Higher Education (YÖK) <b>TBC</b>
16:00 – 16:30	<b>Keynote Public Lecture</b> <i>Reframing GenAI in Higher Education: From Performance Gains to Human–AI Teaming</i> <a href="#">Prof Mutlu Cukurova</a> · UCL Knowledge Lab & UCL Centre for Artificial Intelligence, University College London
16:30 – 16:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:45 – 18:15	<b>Panel Discussion</b> <i>Conscious Futures in Higher Education: future readiness, AI governance, and institutional trust</i> <a href="#">Emerita Prof Margaret Bell CBE</a> · Newcastle University <a href="#">Dr Cevat Giray Aksoy</a> · King's College London & EBRD <a href="#">Mr Okan Kibaroglu</a> · Imperial College London · Panel Moderator
18:15 – 18:30	Closing remarks & Group photo
19:00	<b>Private Gala Dinner</b> <i>Invitation only</i>

**Note:** Day 1 Public Lecture registration is complimentary but required. Registration fee is covered by the organising committee. Visa, travel, and accommodation are the responsibility of participants.

A valid photo ID is required for entry to Imperial College London.

## PROGRAMME

## Day 2 — Invitation-Only Roundtables &amp; Imperial Statement

Venue: Imperial College London | Saturday, 4 July 2026

- All Day 2 discussions will operate under the Chatham House Rule.

TIME	SESSION
09:45 – 10:00	Welcome and objectives
10:00 – 12:30	<b>Roundtable 1</b> How AI and future-readiness agendas are reshaping higher education?
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:30	<b>Roundtable 2</b> AI and assessment redesign: How to protect academic integrity?
16:30 – 16:45	Closing remarks

## KEY OUTPUT · DAY 2

## Imperial Statement on Conscious Futures in Higher Education

A concise set of shared principles and minimum commitments on integrity, governance, and capability-building — co-developed by participants across UK, Türkiye, and international institutions.

KEYNOTE PUBLIC LECTURE · FRIDAY, 3 JULY 2026 · 16:00 – 16:30

# Reframing GenAI in Higher Education: From Performance Gains to Human–AI Teaming

Prof Mutlu Cukurova · UCL Knowledge Lab & UCL Centre for Artificial Intelligence · University College London



## Professor Mutlu Cukurova

Professor of Learning and Artificial Intelligence  
UCL Knowledge Lab & UCL Centre for Artificial Intelligence · University College London

Stanford Top 2% Scientists

UNESCO Expert

OECD Expert

European Commission

Editor-in-Chief, BJET

LAK 2026 Co-chair

Prof Cukurova's research focuses on human-AI complementarity in education. He directs the UCL AI in Education and Learning Analytics team and leads the Design and Use of AI in Education module. He is actively engaged in international policy-making as an external expert for UNESCO, the OECD, and the European Commission, and has authored several influential policy guidelines on AI in Education. He served as programme co-chair of the International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Education (2020) and the ACM Learning Analytics and Knowledge Conference (LAK 2026). Prof Cukurova is listed in Stanford University's Top 2% of Scientists list in both Artificial Intelligence and Education fields, and serves as Editor-in-Chief of the British Journal of Educational Technology.

### ABSTRACT

The rapid diffusion of GenAI is reshaping the foundations of higher education, challenging long-standing assumptions about what competencies matter, how learning should be organised, and how assessment can validly evidence human development. Drawing on recent international studies and his own research on human–AI complementarity, Prof Cukurova argues that the central question is no longer whether GenAI improves performance, but under what conditions it enhances — or undermines — learning, agency, and professional judgement.

The talk introduces a human–AI teaming perspective that reframes GenAI not as a replacement for human cognition, but as a partner whose educational value depends on intentional pedagogical design. It synthesises emerging evidence showing that unstructured GenAI use can displace cognitive effort and weaken metacognitive engagement, while well-designed human–AI teaming can support learning and improve teaching practices in higher education and beyond.

PANEL DISCUSSION · FRIDAY, 3 JULY · 16:45 – 18:15

## The Panel

*Conscious Futures in Higher Education: Future Readiness, AI Governance, and Institutional Trust*

### [Emerita Professor Margaret Bell CBE](#)

Newcastle University

Emerita Professor Margaret Bell CBE is a transport engineer and environmental scientist whose career has transformed how cities monitor, model and manage air quality. At Nottingham University, she pioneered research on traffic-related pollution, exposure, and health impacts, and was instrumental in delivering the UK's first Instrumented City capturing real-time data from Leicester City traffic management system in 1986 and developing integrated low-cost roadside air pollution monitoring in 1997. Her work bridges engineering, urban sustainability, and public policy — including demonstration and evaluation of traffic air quality intervention measures and evidence given to the Transport Select Committee. She was honoured CBE in 2006 for services to sustainable transport. Her expertise in institutional innovation, data-driven urban systems, and sustainable infrastructure brings a distinctive and grounded perspective to debates on responsible AI adoption in higher education.



### [Dr Cevat Giray Aksoy](#)

Associate Professor of Economics, King's College London · Lead Research Economist, EBRD · Policy Adviser to the House of Lords

Dr Cevat Giray Aksoy is Associate Professor of Economics at King's College London and Lead Research Economist at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). He serves as Policy Adviser to the House of Lords on the future of labour markets and is co-founder of the Global Survey of Working Arrangements — the largest cross-country study of remote work. His research on economic inclusion, trust, and the future of work has been funded by the British Academy, ESRC, and the World Bank, and covered by the BBC, Financial Times, The Economist, and the New York Times.



### [Mr Okan Kibaroglu](#)

Director of Customer Success, Imperial College London · Panel Moderator

Mr Okan Kibaroglu's long experience across governance, operations, data infrastructure, and digital services at Imperial College London highlights an important issue for higher education: AI transformation is not only an academic challenge, but also an institutional and operational one. Discussions around AI governance, trust, and future readiness increasingly require collaboration between academic leadership, technical infrastructure, and institutional management.

#### ABOUT THE PANEL FORMAT

The panel brings together senior voices from a range of disciplines to explore how universities can navigate AI-led change. Each panellist brings distinct experience bridging research, policy, and practice. Audience questions will be welcomed subject to the limited time.

FULL PROGRAMME · 3–4 JULY 2026 · IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

Day 1 · Friday, 3 July · Public Lecture

14:30 Registration · 15:00 Welcome · 15:30 Opening Remarks

16:00 Keynote: Prof Mutlu Cukurova, UCL · 16:45 Panel

18:15 Closing &amp; Group Photo · 19:00 Private Gala Dinner

WHY THIS CONVENING, AND WHY NOW?

# Purpose & Thematic Framework

## Strategic context

Higher education is entering a structural transition. AI systems, learning analytics, hybrid delivery models, and digital credentials are moving from experimental initiatives into mainstream institutional practice. The central question is not whether universities will use AI, but how they will do so responsibly, credibly, and in a way that remains educationally meaningful.

## Key strategic questions

- What should "future readiness" mean beyond generic employability claims?
- Which uses of AI genuinely strengthen learning and capability?
- What governance and QA safeguards are non-negotiable?
- How can institutions pilot responsibly without undermining standards?

## Proposed outputs

- Imperial Statement on Conscious Futures in HE**  
Shared principles and minimum commitments on integrity, governance, and capability-building.
- Partnership Roadmap Discussion**  
An initial exploration of follow-on collaboration, knowledge exchange, and future joint activity.

## Thematic pillars

THEME	FOCUS
<b>Institutional renewal &amp; public purpose</b>	Reframing GenAI beyond performance gains; human-AI teaming and the evolving university.
<b>Future readiness &amp; graduate capability</b>	Reframing preparedness to include adaptability, reflective practice, and lifelong learning.
<b>Assessment and integrity</b>	How assessment can remain valid, fair, and credible when AI generates sophisticated outputs.
<b>AI governance by design</b>	Embedding transparency, accountability, and documentation into AI-enabled processes.
<b>Data and institutional trust</b>	Addressing privacy, bias, access, and unequal impacts so innovation does not deepen disadvantage.

## Why participate?

- High-level exchange on a strategically urgent topic at one of the world's leading universities
- A forum linking innovation to QA and public trust rather than treating technology in isolation
- International visibility through co-developed outputs with practical relevance across systems
- An opportunity to help shape an institutionally grounded understanding of future readiness

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BEFORE THE EVENT

# Final Programme

The finalised conference programme will be published on the STAR website ahead of the event — please check there for the latest schedule, speakers, and venue details.

Visit the STAR website:

[star.org.tr](http://star.org.tr)

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Visa** — UK visa applications may take a few weeks. Apply early to avoid disruption.

**Registration** — Free. Visa, travel and accommodation are the responsibility of participants.

*We look forward to welcoming you to Imperial College London.*

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