



# **INDIA-UK-IRELAND HIGHER EDUCATION** **SUMMIT**

(11<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2025)



An initiative under **Indian Network for Internationalization of Higher Education (INIHE)**

Organized by

**Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi**

In Collaboration with

**National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU), UK**



## **Report on India-UK-Ireland Higher Education Summit 2025 held from 11<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2025**

### ➤ **INTRODUCTION**

The National Education Policy (2020) places significant emphasis on the internationalization of higher education in India. Aiming to position India as a preferred destination for affordable, high-quality education, the policy focuses on attracting international students and fostering ‘internationalization at home.’ It advocates for research and teaching collaborations, faculty and student exchange programs, and the establishment of MOUs with foreign universities to cultivate a globally enriched academic environment.

AIU, in collaboration with the National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU), UK, successfully organized a prestigious event from February 11-20, 2025. The core program, held from February 11-15, 2025, featured key themes such as the Higher Education Summit and the India-UK Achievers Programme 2025, supported by the UK Government and organizations like Universities UK International, this landmark event hosted over 100 UK universities, policymakers, industry leaders, and thought leaders.

The event provided a valuable platform to enhance collaboration between Indian and UK, Ireland institutions through joint research initiatives, academic partnerships, and campus visits to reputed universities in London, Scotland, and Ireland. Additionally, it enabled unparalleled networking opportunities with global academic, government, and industry leaders, contributing to academic discussions that shaped the future of India-UK educational collaborations.

### ➤ **FLOW OF EVENTS**

AIU invited member universities to participate in the India-UK-Ireland Higher Education Summit 2025. A total of 18 universities participated in the summit.

### ➤ **KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VISIT**

#### ❖ **United Kingdom (February 11-15, 2025)**

##### **Day 1: Reception at UK Parliament**

- The visit commenced with a VIP Reception at the UK Parliament, House of Lords, attended by senior policymakers, education leaders, and industry representatives.
- Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak, President, AIU presented about Indian Higher Education System, key priority areas of the delegation for collaboration and highlighted AIU role in higher education.
- The university leader interacted with UK stakeholders who joined the reception at the Parliament.



## Day 2: Strengthening India-UK Educational Partnerships

- **India-UK Education Conference**

The day commenced with the India-UK Education Conference, one of the largest international higher education forums outside India. The event brought together ministers, policymakers, and academic leaders to explore opportunities for collaboration in transnational education, skills development, employability, and joint academic programs.

### **Key Panel Discussions:**

#### ***Panel 1- Bridging borders: Building Transformative Partnerships between India and the UK***

The panel was joined by Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak, President AIU, Mr. Jamie Arrowsmith, Director, Universities UK International (UUKi), Ms. Jessica Turner, CEO QS Quacquarelli Symonds, Sir Anton Muscatelli, Principal and Vice chancellor, University of Glasgow and Mr. David Pilsbury, Chief Development Officer, Oxford International Education Group.

The panel discussed and deliberated as how the present partnership between Indian UK universities could be made equitable so as to make them sustainable.

#### ***Panel 2- India's Internationalisation Journey: Reflections 5 Years on from the NEP***

The panel was joined by Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, AIU, Dr. Prashant Pillai MBE, Pro-Vice chancellor, University of Wolverhampton, Ms. Krishna Joshi, Regional Lead for South and

Central Asia, International education, UK Government Department for Business and trade, with the chair Adrian Mutton, Founder and Executive Chairman, Acumen.

The panel explored India's progress in internationalizing higher education since the introduction of the NEP. Discussions focused on expanding global partnerships, increasing student and faculty mobility, and strengthening India-UK academic collaborations. Panelists shared insights on policy impact, challenges, and future opportunities for deeper engagement between institutions.

Panel discussions and special focus sessions highlighted key themes such as internationalization and the future of higher education.



- **Leaders' Roundtable**

In the afternoon, senior education leaders participated in an exclusive roundtable discussion focusing on transformative collaborations. Vice-Chancellors, policymakers, and thought leaders from India and the UK engaged in high-level deliberations on strengthening institutional partnerships, aligning education policies, and fostering global research networks. The session served as a platform to elevate institutional profiles and advance strategic education ties between the two nations.



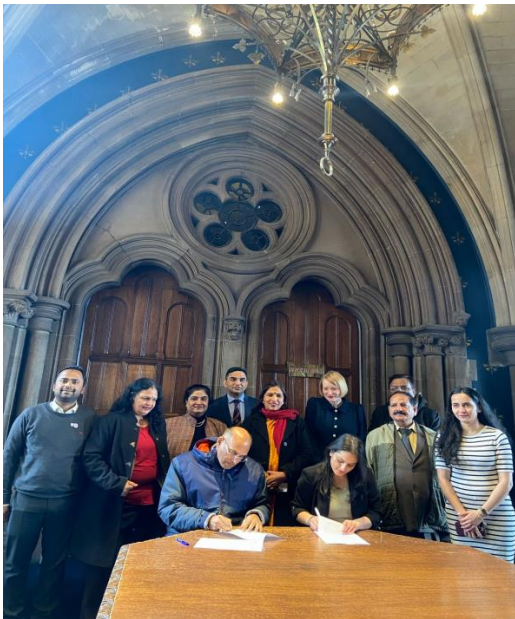
- **India-UK Achievers Honours Gala Ceremony**

The day concluded with the prestigious India-UK Achievers Honours Gala, a grand celebration of Indian alumni who have excelled in various fields after studying in the UK. The red-carpet event saw the presence of prominent figures from academia, industry, and government. The evening featured inspiring speeches, a three-course dinner, and engaging entertainment. The awards honored achievers across multiple categories, recognizing their contributions in academia, business, public service, and the arts.



### ▪ MoU Signing Between AIU and NISAU

- **AIU President, Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak, and NISAU Founder, Ms. Sanam Arora, signed an MoU to promote Indian higher education in the UK, fostering deeper academic collaboration between the two countries.**
- MoU focuses on:
  - Attracting UK students for short-term and immersion programs in India.
  - Strengthening faculty and student exchange programs.
  - Exploring opportunities for joint degree and certification programs.
- Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak, President of AIU, emphasized that the MoU would significantly enhance student mobility and academic cooperation.



### Day 3: University Visits & Academic Engagements

- The delegation visited several prestigious institutions, including:
  - **University of East London (UEL):** Engaged in discussions on potential research collaborations, student exchange initiatives, and co-development of academic courses.





- **Bloomsbury Institute, London:** BIL is a higher education provider offering practical, career-focused degrees in Accounting, Business, and Law, taught by experts with extensive experience in both practice and academia. Located in central London, the institute emphasises a supportive learning environment, equipping students with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in their chosen professions. Explored opportunities for curriculum development and faculty exchanges, enhancing institutional linkages.



## ❖ Scotland (February 16-18, 2025)

### 1. Meetings with Scottish Universities and Government Officials



- The delegation traveled to Scotland to strengthen educational partnerships with Scottish institutions and policymakers.
- A significant meeting was held with Mr. Graeme Dey, Minister of Higher and Further Education of Scotland, in Edinburgh.
- Discussions focused on:
  - Strengthening India-Scotland research collaborations.
  - Establishing joint degree programs and student mobility pathways.
  - Developing funding models to support India-Scotland academic cooperation.



## 2. University Visits in Scotland



The delegation visited leading Scottish universities, engaging in discussions on academic partnerships and research collaborations:

- **University of Glasgow:** A visit to one of the world's top 100 universities, renowned for its research excellence and sustainability initiatives. The delegation met with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Universities Scotland, British Council Scotland, and senior representatives of various Scottish universities over a networking lunch. Discussions focused on strengthening institutional ties and expanding student exchange programs.



- Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU):** Explored opportunities for joint research and industry-focused education at Scotland’s largest modern university. GCU’s commitment to sustainability, social mobility, and employability was highlighted, with 91% of its graduates securing employment or further studies within 15 months. The delegation discussed potential collaborations in skill development and innovation-driven learning.





- **City of Glasgow College:** City of Glasgow College is one of Scotland’s largest colleges, known for its industry-aligned education and strong focus on vocational training. It offers a diverse range of programs in engineering, business, hospitality, and creative industries, emphasizing hands-on learning and employability. The college has a modern campus with state-of-the-art facilities and strong links with industries, ensuring students gain real-world experience. It plays a key role in skill development and workforce training, making it a leading institution in further and higher education.

## ❖ *Ireland (February 18-20, 2025)*

### 1. MoU Signing with the Irish India Council

- AIU signed a landmark **MoU with the Irish India Council**, focusing on:
  - Promoting internationalization of higher education.
  - Strengthening India-Ireland student exchange and research collaborations.
  - Facilitating joint academic programs between Indian and Irish institutions.



## 2. Ireland-India Academic Forum 2025

- Held at the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, the forum provided a platform for Indian and Irish universities to exchange best practices and discuss:
  - Academic partnerships and joint programs.
  - Research collaborations in sustainability, renewable energy, healthcare, and technology.
  - Industry-academic linkages and funding mechanisms.
- Delegates engaged in roundtable discussions and networking sessions with Irish policymakers, research organizations, and industry leaders.







### 3. Engagements with Irish Government and Universities

- The delegation visited the Irish Parliament, meeting with MPs and policymakers to explore policy frameworks for higher education partnerships.
- Site visits were conducted to explore collaborations in medical education and research, emphasizing skill development and technological advancements.



### ➤ MAJOR TAKEAWAYS

1. **Enhanced Institutional Partnerships:** Strengthened ties between AIU and key UK, Scottish, and Irish universities for long-term academic collaborations.
2. **Student Mobility Opportunities:** Agreements to facilitate greater student exchange programs, including short-term immersion courses.
3. **Research and Innovation Collaborations:** Joint initiatives in sustainability, healthcare, AI, and renewable energy were identified as priority areas.
4. **Policy-Level Engagements:** Productive discussions with government officials led to commitments for policy support in transnational education and research funding.
5. **MoU Signings for Future Growth:** AIU successfully signed MoUs with NISAU UK and the Irish India Council, paving the way for structured internationalization efforts.
6. **Industry and Academia Synergy:** The delegation explored avenues to bridge the gap between academic institutions and industry demands, ensuring skill development and employability for students.



7. **Strengthened Role of AIU in Global Higher Education:** The visit positioned AIU as a significant player in international educational collaborations, expanding its reach and influence.

➤ **CONCLUSION**

The visit to the UK, Scotland, and Ireland was a landmark initiative that significantly contributed to AIU's vision of globalizing Indian higher education. With numerous partnerships established and a roadmap for future collaborations, this visit will have a lasting impact on the international academic landscape.



Moving forward, AIU aims to implement the agreements reached during this visit, facilitate active engagement between Indian and international institutions, and create structured pathways for collaborative research and academic programs. This visit not only strengthened AIU's international presence but also reinforced its role in shaping the global higher education landscape. The

momentum generated will be sustained through continued dialogue, follow-up engagements, and practical implementation of the proposed initiatives, ensuring lasting impact and growth in India's higher education sector.

