

UNICOIL 2026 Symposium

Thursday 23 April @ [Sheffield Hallam University](#)

Attendance format: Hybrid (in-person and online)

Register [here](#)



Optional pre-symposium social dinner **22 April: 19:30**

Programme

23 April

09:00-09:30 Registration, refreshments and networking

09:30-10:00 Welcome greetings: Building the UNICOIL community

10:00-10:30 Opening address: *Strategic approaches to embedding COIL in the curriculum* (Professor Martin Ward, University of Leeds; UNICOIL chair)

10:30-11:30 Pecha Kucha: Institutional Leadership and Support for COIL – Challenges and Solutions

11:30-12:00 Coffee and networking

12:00-12:45 Keynote speech: Larisa Schelkin (online)

12:45-13:15 Keynote Q&A

13:15-14:00 Lunch networking

14:00-14:30 Round Table Discussions

14:30-15:30 Plenary Session

- *UUKi at UNICOIL: Creating Inclusive Global Student Mobilities*
- *Leveraging strategic connections: COIL, TNE and student exchange*

15:30-16:00 Coffee and networking

16:00-16:30 Closing & next steps

Pecha Kucha- speakers

- **The COIL value proposition for Universities** – John Joe O’Farrell (Atlantic Technological University, IE)
- **The COIL value proposition for Students** – Dr Anthony Manning (Arden University, UK)
- **The COIL value proposition for Employers** – Dr Izzy Crawford (Robert Gordon University, UK)
- **The COIL value proposition for Staff** – Dr Stephanie Doscher (Global Citizenship Alliance)

Who is this Symposium for?

UK, Ireland and international education academics and professionals with an interest in Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)

Keynote Speaker: Larisa K. Schelkin

Larisa K. Schelkin is an educator and researcher specialising in internationalisation, science diplomacy, and collaborative online learning. She teaches in the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Global Diplomacy Fellowship Programme, where her work focuses on science diplomacy, sustainable development, and global environmental governance. She also works with NASA GLOBE, supporting international STEM education and collaborative learning initiatives with partners in 127 countries. Larisa is the author of the Global STEM Classroom® model and an advocate for inclusive and sustainable approaches to global learning.



Keynote:

Why COIL matters now more than ever!

Drawing on over twenty years of experience in collaborative online learning, as well as her teaching in the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Global Diplomacy Fellowship Programme and her work with NASA GLOBE, this keynote argues that COIL matters now more than ever in an interconnected and fragile world. It highlights COIL as a powerful and sustainable approach to building understanding, trust, and collaboration across borders in higher education and beyond.

Pecha Kucha speaker bios



Dr Anthony Manning is Associate Dean International at Arden University. Anthony is an experienced leader in international education, with a strong track record of strategic development and academic innovation across global learning and engagement. He is a Principal Fellow of AdvanceHE and a National Teaching Fellow, reflecting his commitment to internationalised teaching and educational leadership. Prior to joining Arden, Anthony held senior roles at the University of Kent and the University of Reading. Anthony has lived and worked in five different countries and is also a trustee for the British Accreditation Council and an expert committee member for EAIE, NCUK and the British Council. He is an expert speaker on internationalisation of the curriculum through the accessibility and inclusivity of internationalisation at home.



Dr Izzy Crawford is a Co-Lead of the UArctic Thematic Network for Collaborative Online International Learning and Biodiversity Education. She is the Associate Dean for Economic, Social, and Cultural Development at Aberdeen Business School, Robert Gordon University, where she has worked for over 20 years. Izzy is an Accredited Member and Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. Her PhD considers different stakeholder perspectives of Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) as a flexible learning approach.

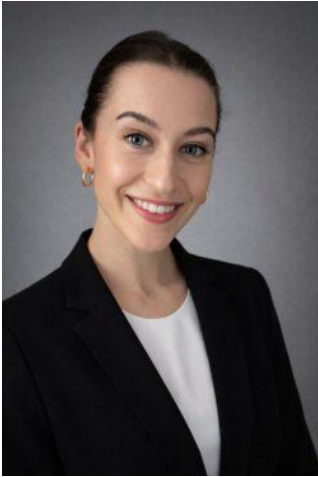


Dr Stephanie Doscher, Ed.D., is an internationally recognized scholar-practitioner and senior leader in higher education internationalization, specializing in curriculum innovation, academic partnerships, and institutional capacity building. She serves as Senior Fellow with the Global Citizenship Alliance and as Executive Board member of COIL Connect. Stephanie co-authored *The Guide to COIL Virtual Exchange* (2022) and *Making Global Learning Universal: Promoting Inclusion and Success for All Students* (2018) and hosted the *Making Global Learning Universal* Podcast.



John Joe O'Farrell is an international education and management professional with nearly 20 years of experience in both the private and public tertiary education sector in Ireland. Director of International Engagement at Atlantic Technological University, he has responsibility for international student recruitment, overseeing international stakeholder engagement, diplomatic and government relations, and the development, review, and ongoing quality assurance of international partnerships. He also has significant experience managing mobility programmes for the university along with their dedicated Erasmus Team and is the international representative on ATU's European University Alliance (EU GREEN), supporting student mobility across our range of European and International Partners. Through these roles he's promoted and championed mobility initiatives, including COIL. He holds an MSc, International Management & Global Business from the University of Limerick, along with a Professional Diploma in Leadership's from University College Cork in Ireland. John Joe recently joined Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Italy, as a prospective PhD student. His research is investigating the Cultural Readiness for COIL (a form of virtual education exchange) in Irish Technological Universities and U.S Community Colleges.

Afternoon plenary spotlight talk



Franziska Enichlmayr is Policy Officer (Europe) at UUKi, where she leads UUK's engagement with the European University Association (EUA) and focuses on EU policy and bilateral engagement. She supports and develops opportunities to strengthen UK universities' collaboration in Europe and works across a range of European policy programmes, including Horizon Europe and Erasmus+. Franziska holds an MSc in Higher Education from the University of Oxford and has previously worked in policy research at UNESCO and the University of Innsbruck.

UUKi at UNICOIL: Creating Inclusive Global Student Mobilities

As a membership body representing 141 UK universities, Universities UK International (UUKi) supports UK institutions in maximising international experiences for UK-based students. UUKi champions Internationalisation at Home (IaH), publishing a practical IaH handbook to help embed global perspectives across curricula. In recent years, Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) has grown, demonstrating how digital collaboration can reach new audiences and provide valuable international learning experiences. While COIL and Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs) do not share identical objectives, COIL can serve as a stepping stone or exploratory pathway for institutions considering more immersive formats like BIPs. With the UK's association to Erasmus+, BIPs (part of KA1 in Erasmus+) are gaining momentum, and UUKi is helping universities navigate and maximise these opportunities. Through policy advocacy, sector guidance, and practical resources, UUKi empowers institutions to make international engagement more innovative, inclusive, and impactful for all students. This session will connect the sector on COILs, explore their potential links to BIPs in practice, and highlight UUKi's priorities around Outbound Student Mobility (OSM).