

GREAT Talks

UK Higher Education Institutions are invited to share Expressions of Interest to suggest subject experts, academics and speakers for the British Council's GREAT Talks Series 2023-24 in India.

The GREAT Campaign is the UK government's initiative to promote the UK internationally as a GREAT place to visit, study and do business. The British Council India is a partner in the GREAT campaign and through it we are raising awareness and promoting the UK's strengths in education.

GREAT Talks are a lecture series of celebrated UK professionals from diverse areas such as climate change, literature, environment, design and creative industries and it is curated and organised by the British Council across several cities in India. The speaker engages in conversation with local experts, academics professionals and students to bring a rounded perspective in partnerships across academia, research & innovation and mobility.

Who do the GREAT Talks engage?

- The Talks reach and engage students, young people, teachers, faculties, and researchers
- The Talks also seek participation from faculty and senior leadership at Indian higher education institutions to engage in discussions and conversations with UK experts and academics, bringing in the Indian context.
- The Talks are designed to inspire and reach large communities of students and young people through digital media, live streaming and broadcasting.

The GREAT talks this year are designed in face-to-face format as per themes below. Please note we will work out dates as per convenience but would like to stick to the months suggested.

Topic/ Theme	Date/ Month	Mode of Delivery (F2F/ Virtual)
Climate Change	August 2023	F2F
Robotics and Artificial Intelligence	September 2023	F2F
Medical Hub/Health Care	November 2023	F2F
Culture and Tourism	February 2024	F2F

Why participate?

This is an excellent opportunity for UK HEIs to influence and build the UK's brand and network across large audiences in India in tier 1,2 and 3 cities. In the past GREAT lectures have engaged audiences 200 to 1200, depending on the topic and the capacity of the venue. We engage audiences of 100-300 in each institution, depending on the topic and school or college we visit for the talk.

Kindly note that these sessions are designed to promote the UK as a whole, the UK's education offer and to inspire young minds in India on UK's world class education, research and innovation, and not for individual universities to promote their courses and institutions.

The lectures are designed to inspire students and professionals on UK's world class education system and research. The sessions will reach out to students across socio-economic sections of society and will engage them to think about and discuss global challenges. They will learn about the UK's contribution in research and academia in these themes.

For year 2022-23 we hosted **4 speakers** from UK and organised **16 GREAT Talks lectures** across **8 cities**, partnering with **16 Indian Institutes** and engaging with **1337 students and 100 faculties/deans**. The Talks were organised across various themes and topics like: Cosmology, Medicines and vaccines, Artificial Intelligence, history - Decolonising Communities.

Call to Action

- UK HEIs can suggest speaker names for a maximum of 2 themes and the British Council will be choosing speakers with a proven track record of delivering engaging sessions across a wide range of audiences (students, academics, public). The British Council's decision will be final on the speaker selection.
- We will expect the Speaker to consent to being recorded, for further dissemination of the lectures across appropriate digital channels. Web links for previous similar talks/sessions will be helpful to evaluate.
- For F2F sessions, costs towards local hospitality in India and International and domestic airfare (economy class), local transport, and accommodation will be arranged and paid by the British Council.
- The deadline for applications is **16 June 2023** Interested institutions to submit expressions of interest by filling [MS Form](#)

To allow maximum UK HEIs to participate in this and thereby showcase the variety across UK's higher education sector, each UK HEI may sign up for only two themes.

If you have any queries about this event, please contact Himani Taneja at Himani.taneja@britishcouncil.org