

## Education Attaché of the Year for The Americas

### Mr Jorge Enrique Córdoba-Currea Embassy of Colombia

Jorge has demonstrated exceptional commitment to strengthening educational, academic and research cooperation between Colombia and the UK, with a particular focus on peace-building in the context of the 10th anniversary of the 2016 Peace Agreement and the bicentennial of diplomatic relations between both countries. Through sustained engagement with universities, research institutions and government stakeholders, he has expanded opportunities for collaboration, student mobility and knowledge exchange, placing peace and reconciliation at the centre of the bilateral agenda.

Over the past year, he has led a strategic programme of academic diplomacy for peace, using lectures, panels and public events with leading UK universities to deepen collaboration between Colombian and British higher education institutions and strengthen the engagement of Colombian students with local stakeholders. This approach is reflected in events such as “Beyond Prohibition: Rethinking Illicit Drug Policy” at the University of Cambridge; “Justice as Peace in Action: Colombia’s Comuneros del Sur Peace Process” at the University of Nottingham; and “The Coca Plant: From Illicit Economies to Peacebuilding Opportunities in Colombia” at the University of Oxford.

Jorge has also promoted a gender- and culture-sensitive approach to peacebuilding through initiatives with the University of St Andrews, including the “Women’s Leadership” panel and cultural activities such as “Queer Tales”. In parallel, he supported the Oxford Latin America Business Forum 2026 at Saïd Business School, University of Oxford, where Colombian institutions and students showcased opportunities in trade, investment and tourism.

Through this integrated strategy, Jorge has strengthened university partnerships and empowered Colombian students to engage as active contributors to discussions on peace, development and social change, making him a highly deserving candidate for the Education Attaché of the Year.

## Education Attaché of the Year for Asia

### Prof Agus M Ramdhan, Embassy of Indonesia

As a Professor of Geology at the Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB) and a proud alumnus of Durham University (2007–2010), Prof Ramdhan possesses a deep, lived understanding of the UK academic landscape. In his 15-month tenure, he has spearheaded transformative initiatives to bridge the educational

aspirations of Indonesia with the world-class standards of the UK, including.

- **Expansion of Transnational Education (TNE):** he has been instrumental in facilitating the entry of premier UK educational institutions into Indonesia, supporting the establishment of branch campuses for King’s College, Deakin-Lancaster, and Wellington College, with ongoing development for the University of Liverpool.
- **High-Level Strategic Partnerships:** he has successfully positioned human capital development as a cornerstone of bilateral cooperation. This includes securing MoUs between top-tier UK universities – notably Cambridge, Oxford, and Imperial – and the Indonesian Ministry of Higher Education to advance the development of new medical schools in Indonesia.
- **Evidence-Based Policy Advocacy:** Using rigorous comparative analysis of the UK education system, he advised the Indonesian government on the scalability of proven models, providing a recommendations on policies such as “free school meals” and the “pupil premium” to enhance domestic educational performance.
- **Diplomatic Leadership:** As a proactive member of the Joint Working Group (JWG), he coordinates directly with the British Council, the Department for Education (DfE), and the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA). A career highlight included serving as a key delegate during the Indonesian Presidential visit in January 2026, where he facilitated a pivotal dialogue between the President and Vice-Chancellors of Russell Group universities.
- **Diaspora and Student Engagement:** he provides oversight and support for 5,000 Indonesian students in the UK. He also actively engages with 45 Indonesian student and professional organisations, mobilising the ‘academic diaspora’ – lecturers and researchers to serve as catalysts for institutional research partnerships.

His commitment is driven by the conviction that robust educational diplomacy is the most effective vehicle for national development. By bridging the expertise of the UK with the ambitions of Indonesia, he aims to create a legacy of sustainable, high-impact growth. His unique position – blending rigorous scientific inquiry with proactive educational diplomacy – allows him to represent Indonesia with both authority and innovation on the global stage.

## Education Attaché of the Year for The Caribbean

### Mrs Adislenes Ruenes César, Embassy of Cuba

Over the past two years, Adislenes has demonstrated

exceptional dedication to strengthening academic, scientific and research links between Cuba and the UK, while providing exceptional, compassionate support to international scholars and researchers.

Her stand-out contribution has been her proactive collaboration with UK institutions to strengthen bilateral research. She has played a key role in strengthening the embassy's relationship with the University of Nottingham's Centre for Research on Cuba, facilitating high-impact events such as an innovative initiative blending academic insight, history, and local development with Professor Par Kumaraswami. Her efforts have significantly raised the profile of Cuban historical and social research within prestigious UK universities.

Furthermore, Adislenes has championed vital scientific and innovation dialogues. She has actively supported collaborations with CRICKET CIC (Caribbean Research and Innovation Collaboration for Knowledge Exchange and Transfer), facilitating high-level networking between Cuban scientists and UK researchers to explore knowledge exchange in sustainability, energy transition and biomedical innovation. Her diplomatic skills have enabled significant academic engagements across the UK, including supporting the Cuba-UK Disability Network at De Montfort University, academic promotions in Glasgow, and educational outreach in Oxford.

Adislenes also provides exceptional pastoral care to Cuban researchers and students in the UK. She acts as an indispensable bridge, offering logistical guidance and direct assistance during housing or welfare challenges. By co-facilitating cultural and educational initiatives such as the Screen Cuba film series on university campuses, she has fostered an inclusive environment that aids student integration. Adislenes embodies excellence and thoroughly deserves this honour.

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## Education Attaché of the Year for Europe

### Dr Fernando Bartolomé, Embassy of Spain

From the Consejería de Educación in London, Dr Bartolomé oversees the Spanish education office's work across the UK – advising teachers and students, leading professional development, supporting heritage-language programmes such as ALCE, and chairing the Proprietor Board of the Instituto Español Vicente Cañada Blanch.

He engages tirelessly with UK educational partners, including the Association for Language Learning, to champion the value of language learning and deeper UK-Spain educational ties. What distinguishes Dr Bartolomé is the rare combination of intellectual depth and seriousness he brings to his work. Before his diplomatic career he built a distinguished record in academia and scientific research – holding positions at the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) and the Instituto de Nanociencia y Materiales de Aragón, and presiding over the local board of the Real Sociedad Española de Física.

This scholarly foundation is evident in every exchange: Through our shared engagement across the London diplomatic education network, he has been a deeply knowledgeable and intellectually rigorous colleague, with a sophisticated grasp of international relations and diplomacy that extends well beyond the education portfolio. He is precisely the kind of professional this award is intended to recognise, and a thoroughly deserving candidate for Education Attaché of the Year.

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## Education Attaché of the Year for the Middle East

### Prof Dr Kossay Al-Ahmady, Embassy of Iraq

Professor Dr Kossay Al-Ahmady has distinguished himself as one of the leading educational and diplomatic figures contributing to the strengthening of academic and research relations between Iraq and the UK over the past year. Through his professional leadership and sustained commitment, he has played a significant role in fostering collaboration between higher education institutions in both countries, supporting academic partnerships, research cooperation, and institutional engagement.

He has demonstrated exceptional dedication to supporting Iraqi students studying in the UK. By providing guidance, continuous follow-up, and assistance in addressing academic and administrative challenges, he has helped ensure that students can successfully pursue their studies and achieve their academic goals. His accessibility, responsiveness, and commitment to student welfare have earned him the respect and appreciation of the Iraqi student community.

Prof Dr Al-Ahmady actively supports scientific and academic initiatives that bring together Iraqi and British universities, encouraging researchers and academics to build sustainable partnerships that contribute to research excellence and national development. He has also promoted educational and research opportunities and strengthened the visibility of Iraqi academia within international forums and conferences.

Prof Dr Al-Ahmady's outstanding service to students and researchers, combined with his effective efforts to enhance educational and research cooperation between Iraq and the UK, make him a highly deserving candidate for the Education Attaché of the Year.

**VOTE ONLINE**  
**for your choice of**  
**Education Attaché**  
**of the Year.**  
**Vote closes on**  
**7 July at 15.30**

