



The Washington DC Conference on Education

April 15-20, 2026

Washington DC, United States, and Online

Organised by The International Academic Forum (IAFOR) in partnership with the IAFOR Research Centre at the Osaka School of International Public Policy (OSIPP) at Osaka University, Japan, and IAFOR's Global Partners

iafor

The Washington DC Conference on Education (WCE2026)

Website: wce.iafor.org

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center,
Washington DC & Online

Dates: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 to Monday, April 20, 2026

Early Bird Abstract Submission Deadline: November 07, 2025*

Final Abstract Submission Deadline: January 16, 2026

Registration Deadline for Presenters: February 20, 2026

*Submit early to take advantage of discounted registration rates and scholarship opportunities.

The International Academic Forum, in partnership with the IAFOR Research Centre at the Osaka School of International Public Policy (OSIPP) at Osaka University, Japan, is very happy to return to Washington, DC, and to the United States' mainland in 2026. Held alongside The Washington DC Conference on the Social Sciences (WCSS2026), this dual conference event will complement those we hold in other cities throughout the world.

IAFOR conferences offer a crucial and critical space for scholarship and creativity, attracting thousands of delegates annually from more than a hundred different countries in events that are celebrations of the international, intercultural, and interdisciplinary. Washington, DC, is an important historical and cultural centre, with world-class museums and iconic monuments. It is also a prominent intellectual and academic hub, with great universities and numerous think tanks; not only the nation's capital, but given the outsized role of the United States in world affairs, DC is central to global dynamics. It is in DC that many discussions are had, ideas are shaped, decisions are made, and policies are crafted, that impact not only the furthest corners of the Union, but that are felt across the world. In these challenging times, it is a fitting physical and intellectual place to host our International Academic Forum.

We look forward to welcoming scholars from across North America and around the world for what is sure to be a great conference.

– The WCE2026 Programme Committee



Visit wce.iafor.org





Conference Vision



To promote international exchange

The conference supporters and organisers endeavour to connect scholars from around the world to share important research and ideas in a spirit of mutual respect.



To facilitate intercultural awareness

We aim to promote intercultural events and discussions to place American culture in dialogue with our international visitors.



To encourage interdisciplinary discussion

The presentation streams in the WCE2026 programme reach beyond the border of their academic disciplines, drawing on intersections from across disciplinary boundaries.



To generate and share new knowledge

We hope to connect scholars to engage in vital topics in education by sharing original research and perspectives.

About The International Academic Forum (IAFOR)

Founded in 2009, [The International Academic Forum \(IAFOR\)](#) is a mission-driven politically independent non-partisan and non-profit organisation dedicated to encouraging interdisciplinary discussion, facilitating intercultural awareness and promoting international exchange, principally through educational interaction and academic research. Based in Japan, its main administrative office is in Nagoya, and its research centre is in the Osaka School of International Public Policy (OSIPP), a graduate school of Osaka University.

Through its international, intercultural, and interdisciplinary conferences, research, and publications, IAFOR is a network hub for interdisciplinary discussion across Asia and beyond, connecting individuals and institutions across the globe, and the thought leaders of today with those of tomorrow.

IAFOR runs research projects and events in Asia, Europe, and North America in partnership with universities, think tanks, and learned societies. IAFOR has also worked on a number of multi-sector cooperative programs and events, including collaborations with the United Nations and the Government of Japan.

IAFOR Partners



The IAFOR Way: International, Intercultural, Interdisciplinary

An IAFOR conference is organised over several days onsite (usually between four and six), and includes hundreds of hours of programming to excite the mind. Added to this is live and recorded access to the online livestream sessions, as well as access to the pre-recorded virtual content and plenary sessions. Many personal and professional partnerships and collaborations have been forged and consolidated through IAFOR conferences over the years, and across the boundaries of nation, culture, and discipline, resulting in a myriad friendships, partnerships, projects, and career opportunities.

An IAFOR conference typically brings together hundreds of people from scores of countries. Like you, they are open and engaged, and like you, they are looking to write their own IAFOR stories. We encourage your active and open participation throughout the event!

Nurturing global collaborations; that's the IAFOR Way.

The IAFOR Conference Experience



Keynote Presentations



Panel Discussions



Parallel Sessions



Networking Opportunities



Forum Discussion



Poster Sessions



Capacity-Building Sessions



Cultural Events



Conference Dinner

Conference Overview

Conference Programme Schedule

Day 1: Plenary Session, Cultural Workshop & Welcome Reception

Day 2: Plenary Session & Conference Dinner

Day 3: Onsite Parallel Sessions

Day 4: Onsite Parallel Sessions

Day 5: Online Parallel Sessions

Presentation Formats

Present Onsite

- Oral Presentation (25 minutes)
- Poster Presentation (60 minutes)
- Workshop Presentation (50 minutes)
- Panel Presentation (75 minutes)

Present Online

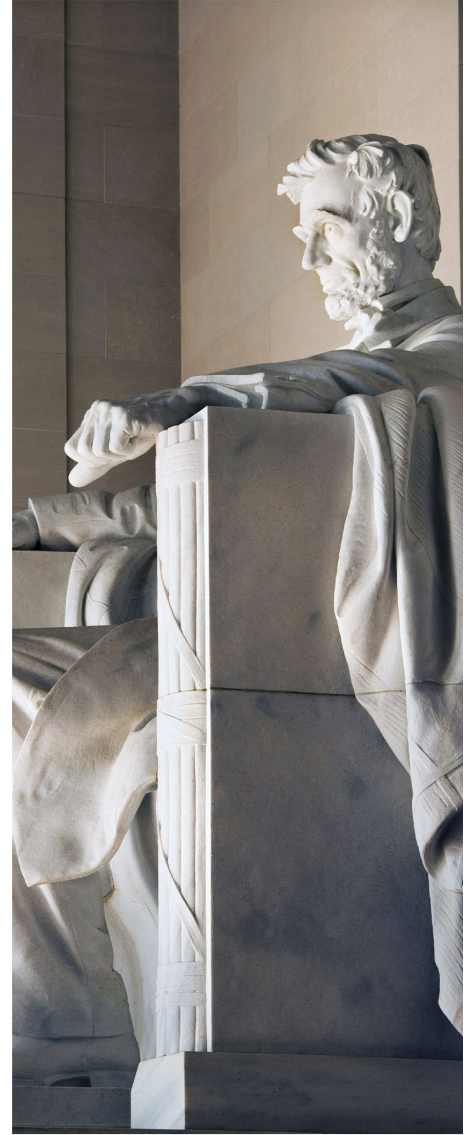
- Live-Stream Presentation (25 minutes)
- Pre-Recorded Virtual Presentation
- Virtual Poster Presentation



Venue

Walter E. Washington Convention Center, United States

From international policy conferences and industry conventions to even presidential inaugural balls, the Walter E. Washington Convention Center unites locals and visitors from around the world to experience the best of the nation's capital. With a prime location in the heart of downtown's convention and entertainment district, featuring the Marriott Marquis. Close to the revitalized Shaw neighborhood, CityCenter and Chinatown, the Convention Center makes it easy to mix business and pleasure.



Connect in America's Capital

Washington, DC is a place where history, culture, and intellect meet. As the capital of the United States, its influence stretches across the world, shaping discourse and decisions that resonate globally. DC is home to world-renowned universities, influential think tanks, and a vibrant policy-making community, offering the ideal environment for academic engagement and intellectual exchange. Delegates can explore world-class institutions while in DC, such as the Smithsonian, the Library of Congress, and the United States National Archives.

IAFOR 2023-2024

Key Statistics

Date of creation: November 26, 2024

international
intercultural
interdisciplinary



4509 DELEGATES
FROM 119 COUNTRIES



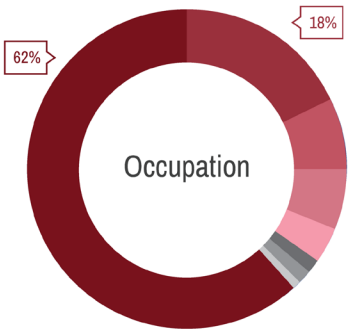
2492
Onsite
Presentations



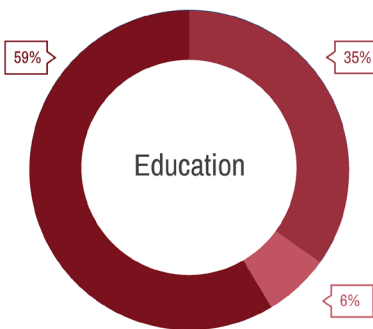
1391
Online
Presentations



2364
Institutions and
Organisations



62% University Faculty
18% Doctoral Student
7% Postgraduate Student
6% Public Sector/Practitioner
3% Postdoctoral Fellow/Instructor
1.5% Other
1.5% Independent Scholar
1% Private Sector



59% Doctoral Degree
35% Masters Degree
6% Bachelors Degree

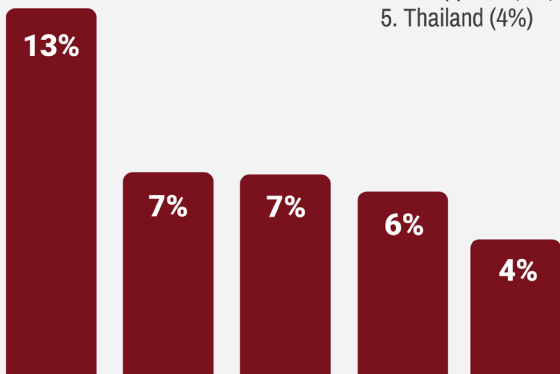
Top Streams

1. Teaching Experiences, Pedagogy, Practice & Praxis (327)
2. Learning Experiences, Student Learning & Learner Diversity (253)
3. Design, Implementation & Assessment of Innovative Technologies in Education (236)
4. Higher Education (157)
5. Foreign Languages Education & Applied Linguistics (including ESL/TESL/TEFL) (153)



Top Countries by Delegate Attendance

1. United States (13%)
2. Japan (7%)
3. Taiwan (7%)
4. Philippines (6%)
5. Thailand (4%)



3883
Total
Presentations



1618
Hours of
Content

Multiple Authored vs. Single Authored Submissions





IAFOR events are among the most **diverse** on Earth

Bridging divides of **nation**, **culture**, and **discipline**; informing and shaping ideas, research, practice, and policy in a comparative and contrastive space, IAFOR encourages the sharing and nurturing of diverse ideas.

Over the past year, more than 4,500 delegates from more than 120 countries have participated in an IAFOR event.



5,000+
Delegates



120+
Countries

Inspiring global collaborations, this diversity of peoples, nations, voices, cultures, and ideas is at the heart of what we do.

It is our greatest strength. Join us.



IAFOR's Conference Themes for 2025-2029



IAFOR's conference programme provides an essential comparative and contrastive space for people to engage in multidisciplinary research across borders of nation, culture, discipline, and professions. We encourage mixed approaches and methodologies, combining theory and practice between and across the disciplines, and we look to harness the collective intelligence of our International Academic Forum in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time. Through the implementation of new formats in our conference programme over the last year, including Intelligence Briefings, Keynote Interviews, and The Forum, we gathered insights into what has been discussed at the theoretical and policy levels, identify the challenges, and the outlook for best practices in tackling global contemporary issues, which we have identified as the themes for 2025-2029. Our four themes can be seen as standalone themes, but they are also very much in conversation with each other. Themes may be seen as corollaries, complementary, or in opposition/juxtaposition with each other. The themes can be considered as widely as possible and are designed, in keeping with our mission, to encourage ideas across the disciplines.



1. Technology and Artificial Intelligence

Examines the rapid pace of technological advancements, aided most particularly by those driven by artificial intelligence and its enormous and growing impact in all fields.

2. Humanity and Human Intelligence

Asks us which principles, values, and attributes we wish to encourage, protect, and nurture and how we accomplish this. Technological advancements constantly ask us to reconsider and reimagine what it means to be human, including questions regarding communication, creativity, inclusivity, ethics, and care.



3. Global Citizenship and Education for Peace

Consider our existence and coexistence with each other, within our communities and places of belonging, and with peoples of different countries, cultures, and backgrounds, as well as with our environment and our planet.

4. Leadership

The continuing importance of leadership as a skill, particularly in light of difficult times, where recognising and encouraging best practices in leadership at all levels of society is critical.

Conference Themes in Theory, Policy, and Practice

Many theories are born and initially tested in the academy, informing discussions in the public sphere that influence policy. IAFOR represents a unique combination of engagement emerging from the collaborative efforts of senior policymakers, administrators, and individuals working on the ground or in the field. IAFOR has made this rare combination of equitable theoretical and practical exchanges the standard for our organisation and represents a valuable model for how science should be done. We will develop conference and institutional programmes and publications around these themes as well as capacity building sessions for our conference programme over the next five years. It is our aim with the implementation of these themes, alongside the implementation and continuing refinement of new formats, to best harness the unique arena IAFOR and its network have built in regards to pressing issues of today and the future.



Submission Streams

Teaching & Learning

- Learning Experiences, Student Learning & Learner Diversity
- Teaching Experiences, Pedagogy, Practice & Praxis
- Assessment Theories & Methodologies
- Curriculum Design & Development
- Adult, Lifelong & Distance Learning
- Education & Difference: Gifted Education, Special Education, Learning Difficulties & Disability
- Interdisciplinary, Multidisciplinary & Transdisciplinary Education

Educational Structures

- Educational Policy, Leadership, Management & Administration
- Educational Research, Development & Publishing
- Professional Training, Development & Concerns in Education
- Primary & Secondary Education
- Higher Education

Community & Society

- Education, Sustainability & Society: Social Justice, Development & Political Movements
- International Education

Language & Culture

- Language Development & Literacy
- Foreign Languages Education & Applied Linguistics (including ESL/TESL/TEFL)
- Challenging & Preserving: Culture, Inter/Multiculturalism & Language

Psychology, Mind & Brain

- Mind, Brain & Psychology: Human Emotional & Cognitive Development & Outcomes within Educational Contexts
- Counselling, Guidance & Adjustment in Education

Innovation & Technology

- Design, Implementation & Assessment of Innovative Technologies in Education
- Nurturing Creativity & Innovation: New, Innovative & Radical Education
- Knowledge Creation, Preservation & Access: Curation, Librarianship, Information & Archival Science

Participate in the Conference Online

As part of IAFOR's internationalising mission and commitment to accessibility, we are dedicated to providing platforms that make presentation and publishing possible for everyone. IAFOR's purpose-built online platform provides structured accountability and reporting for conference participation and attendance, both physical and virtual.

What is an Online Presentation?

For many academics, Online Presentations are an excellent option, particularly for presenters who are unable to attend a conference in person, as they enable authors to participate in the conference and provide all the same publishing opportunities using online technologies.

IAFOR facilitates **Live-Stream Presentations** that allow real-time interaction between attendees during the online day of the conference. This creates opportunities for interaction, knowledge transfer, and feedback in the form of questions and critique. **Virtual Presentations** are pre-recorded and added to the **IAFOR Online Video Archive** before the conference begins, where they remain indefinitely.

The Benefits of Online Presentation:

Present

- ✓ Present to an international audience, and receive a certificate of presentation
- ✓ Engage with audience members through online Q&A sessions

Participate

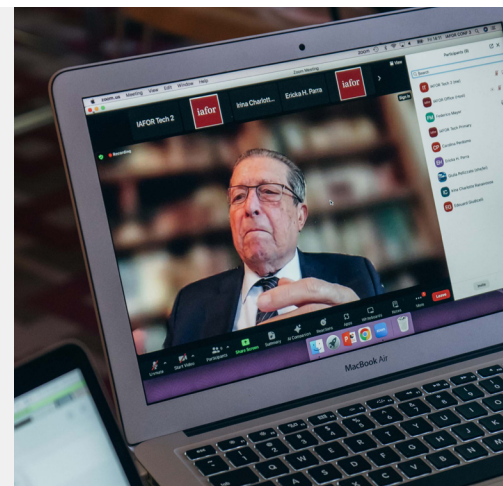
- ✓ Share, Comment, and Discuss your video presentation with peers from around the world
- ✓ Participate in plenary presentations and special sessions via live-stream

Publish

- ✓ Publish your final paper in the Conference Proceedings, indexed with an ISSN
- ✓ Have your paper listed, indexed, and searchable online in the IAFOR Research Archive

Online Presenters enjoy all of the following:

- Presentation published in IAFOR's Online Video Archive
- Final Paper published in the Conference Proceedings (optional)
- Listed in the Online Programme/Abstract Book
- Rigorous double-blind peer review acceptance standards
- Real-time engagement and interaction
- Access to plenary presentations via live-stream



Publishing Opportunities



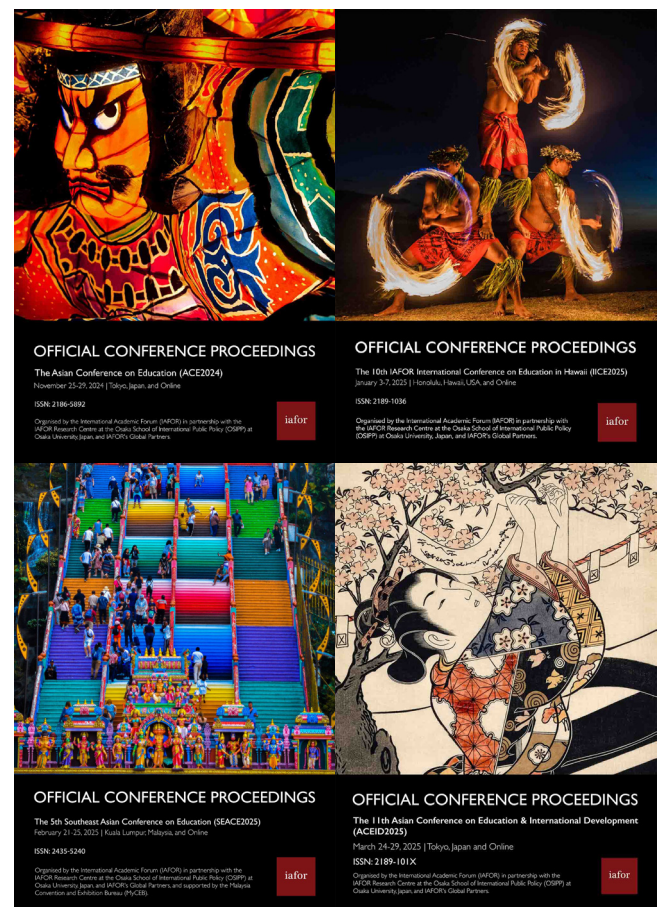
IAFOR Journals

IAFOR believes in “Open Access” publishing and, since 2009, has been committed to maintaining an online searchable research archive that offers free access to anyone, anywhere, where there is Internet access, regardless of institutional affiliation or scholarly rank. IAFOR publications are accessible on the website (Open Access) to researchers all over the world, completely free of charge and without delay or embargo. Authors and contributors are not required to pay charges of any sort towards the publication of IAFOR journals.

Conference Proceedings

If your submission has been accepted and you presented the work at the conference, you are encouraged to submit a full paper via the online submission system for inclusion in the Conference Proceedings, which will be made available online.

IAFOR Conference Proceedings are Open Access research repositories that act as permanent records of the research generated by IAFOR conferences. Please note that works published in the Conference Proceedings cannot be considered for publication in IAFOR journals and Conference Proceedings are not peer-reviewed.



IAFOR Conference Report and Intelligence Briefings



IAFOR produces conference reports that provide concise and coherent overviews of the ideas, conversations, and areas of research present. These include key themes and takeaways, referencing programme(s), speakers, and attendees, which are curated and archived for both those who attended the event and those who did not to stay abreast of many of the developments and insights provided by the conference and the collective intelligence of its participants. The reports are not meant to be, and indeed cannot be, exhaustive, and yet they aim to make a significant intellectual contribution drawn from the unique collaborative and contrastive space of IAFOR events.



Read the latest Conference Report and Intelligence Briefing
[Conference Report and Intelligence Briefing \(ISSN: 2759-4939\)](#)

Welcome Reception

Join fellow delegates for a drink or two at the WCE Welcome Reception. This event provides a great opportunity for delegates to network and get to know each other. All registered presenters and audience members are welcome to attend.



The International Academic Forum (IAFOR)

International | Intercultural | Interdisciplinary



Find us online



IAFOR.ORG



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Where will your ideas
take you next?

iafor

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