

March 5-6, 2026 Accountancy Education Directors Forum London/Hybrid Meeting Agenda

Supporting the Full Professional Journey: Education, Development, and Global Mobility

Day 1: Thursday 5th March, 09.00 – 17.15 (GMT)

Time	Item	Description & Objective	Speaker(s)
8.30 – 8:55	Registration and breakfast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Join us from 8:30am for registration and a light breakfast in AAT's office on the 10th floor. <i>We will begin the day's sessions on the 5th floor at 9am.</i> 	
9.00 – 9:15	Welcome from IFAC and Hosts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and overview of the agenda Host welcome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michelle Cardwell, IFAC AAT
9:15 – 10:00	Looking Ahead: A fireside chat with Sinéad Donovan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A discussion on the future strategy and priorities of the International Panel on Accountancy Education with the new Chair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderated by Sarah Beale, AAT
10:00 – 11:00	Reaching the Next Generation of Talent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case studies on engaging middle and high school students about opportunities and careers within the accounting profession 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Megan Hartman, IFAC Chika Saka, Kwame Ninsin University (virtual) Toby York, Accounting Café Moderated by Ian Browne, CA Ireland
11:00– 11:30	TEA/COFFEE AND NETWORKING		
11:30 – 12:30	Accounting Technicians: Opening Doors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AAT CEO Sarah Beale will present on Accounting Technicians as relevant pathway into the profession and how AAT qualifications build work ready skills. This will be followed by a panel of accounting technicians who will share their own career paths and experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sarah Beale, AAT Panel of Accounting Technicians
12:30 – 13:00	Accounting Technicians: Opening Doors round-the-room discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An opportunity for participants to discuss opportunities and perspectives from their organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderated by Sinéad Donovan, IPAE
13:00 – 14:15	LUNCH BREAK AND NETWORKING		

Time	Item	Description & Objective	Speaker(s)
14:15 – 14:55	Initial Professional Development in Transition: ICAEW case study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case study on the major changes ICAEW has made to their Next Generation ACA qualification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will Holt, ICAEW Moderated by Jenn Eberman, Deloitte
14:55 – 15:25	Embracing the AI Frontier: Rethinking audit skills and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation on research undertaken with large audit firms on the impact on AI and audit talent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elmar Venter, Cecile Janse van Rensburg, and Willem Gray, University of Pretoria and IAAER (virtual) Moderated by Donna Street, IAAER
15:25 – 15:40	TEA/COFFEE AND NETWORKING		
15:40 – 16:20	Resilience Training: Preparing the next generation for success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case study on building the human skills essential for career success 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alex Chalmers, PwC Moderated by Sinéad Donovan, IPAE
16:20 – 17:00	Human Skills in an Age of AI: The importance of critical thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A perspective on teaching critical thinking to students in an AI-driven world 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Susan Wolcott, WolcottLynch (virtual), Matthew Sargent, University of Southern Mississippi, (virtual) Moderated by Jan Taylor, AICPA
17:00 – 17:15	Closing Remarks and Day 1 Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An opportunity to reflect on the learnings from day 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jan Taylor, IPAE Deputy Chair

****We are considering arranging an informal gathering at a local pub at the end of Day 1. This will be optional and self-funded; please reach out to Michelle Cardwell if you are interested in attending so we can gauge interest.**

Day 2: Friday 6th March, 09.00 – 13.15 (GMT)

Time	Item	Description & Objective	Speaker(s)
8.30 – 8:55	Breakfast and networking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Join us from 8:30am for registration and a light breakfast in AAT's office on the 10th floor. <i>We will begin the day's sessions on the 5th floor at 9am.</i> 	
9.00 – 9.30	Career Paths Reimagined: Preparing for the future of work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing research on how careers may change and potential effects on approaches to education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clive Webb, ACCA Moderated by Ann Lamb, ACCA
9:30 – 10:00	Micro-Credentials and MBA Pathways: EY Case Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case study about EY's micro credential 'Badges' and MBA programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stephanie Keefe, EY Moderated by Neo Hlatshwayo, IFAC (virtual)
10:00-10:50	Rethinking Learning Design: Technology as an education enabler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two case studies, from China and Lebanon, on how education technology can enable education through AI & technology labs on campus, as well as peer-to-peer and project-based pedagogy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qi Zhang, Zhongnan University of Economics and Law Wissam Sammouri, 42Beirut and Lebanese American University (virtual) Moderated by Husnain Badami, ICAP
10:50 – 11:10	TEA/COFFEE AND NETWORKING		

Time	Item	Description & Objective	Speaker(s)
11:10 – 12:00	The Future of Professional Development: Round-the-room discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An opportunity for participants to discuss opportunities and perspectives on the changing nature of initial and continuing professional development journeys and how we can learn from each other. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderated by Dana Day, ICAEW
12:00 – 13:00	Creating a Global Profession: Case studies on enhancing mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel on recent regional efforts to enhance mobility and explore how lessons could apply to the wider profession. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Henderson, FRC Dr. Innocent Okwuosa, ICAN (virtual) Evelyn Mwapasa, PAFA Sam Wilson, CA ANZ Moderated by Michelle Cardwell, IFAC
13:00 – 13:15	Concluding Remarks and Day 2 Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An opportunity to reflect on learnings from day 2, and the Forum as a whole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sinéad Donovan, IPAE Chair
13:15 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK AND NETWORKING		