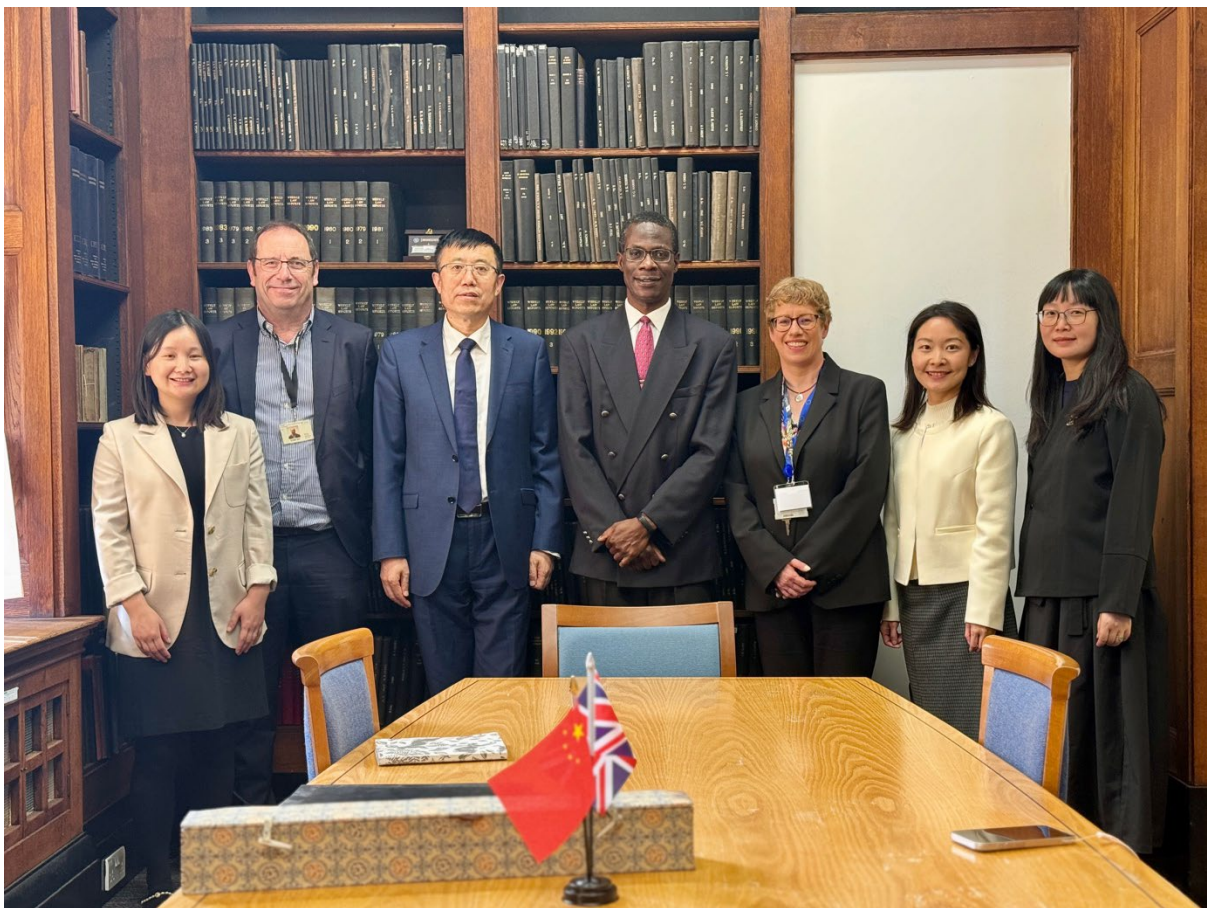


## **New partnership for UNESCO Chair in International Education and Development at the University of Nottingham**

Member of the UNESCO Chair in International Education and Development, School of Education, University of Nottingham (UoN), Associate Professor Yuwei Xu, leads the development of a new partnership between East China Normal University (ECNU) and The University of Nottingham (UoN).

In June 2023, members of the UNESCO Chair at UoN, Professor Volker Wedekind, Head of School of Education, Professor Lucy Cooker, Director of Global Engagement, Faculty of Social Sciences and Dr Yuwei Xu, Associate Professor in Early Childhood Education visited ECNU's Faculty of Education.

In May 2024, the two universities signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which records the two universities' plans to collaborate in staff/student mobility and research activities, including Global South-South and North-South knowledge exchange and research projects.



*(Professor Robert Mokaya OBE, UoN's Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Global Engagement signing MoU with ECNU representatives)*

The first activity following the MoU was an academic exchange week in May 2024, with an ECNU delegation of 19 staff and students visiting the School of Education and participating in a week-long [academic programme](#). The delegation was led by Professor Yaozong Hu, Head of Department of Educational Management at ECNU's Faculty of Education; accompanied by four faculty members and fourteen undergraduate, master's, and PhD students from Departments of Educational Management and Early Childhood Education.



*(ECNU Delegates accompanied by Dr Yuwei Xu and his PhD students)*

Professor Howard Stevenson (Deputy Head of School of Education), Professor Lucy Cooker (Director of Global Engagement, Faculty of Social Sciences), Professor Kay Fuller (Convenor, Centre for Research in Educational Leadership and Management), and Drs Kerry Dixon and Yuwei Xu (Co-Convenors, Global Childhoods Research Group) welcomed the delegates on day one. Colleagues from the UNESCO Chair, The Observatory for Mathematics Education, The Centre for Research in Educational Leadership and Management, Global Childhoods Research Group, and Higher Education Futures Research Group contributed to the week via formal and informal talks and communications.



*(Professor Howard Stevenson, Deputy Head of School of Education welcoming ECNU delegates)*



*(ECNU delegates with Professors Kay Fuller & Christopher Day; and other members of the Centre for Research in Educational Leadership and Management)*

Members of The UNESCO Chair led a one-day academic writing workshop as part of the week. The day started with a keynote delivered by Professor Tony Bush and Associate Professor Yuwei Xu, who shared their experiences of editing leading educational journals *Educational Management Administration & Leadership* and *British Educational Research Journal*. This was followed by four parallel sessions where delegates met with journal editors to further discuss their intended publishing plans and related questions. Professor Juliet Thondhlana led one of the parallel sessions as Editor of *Teachers and Teaching: Theory and Practice*, a leading international journal on teacher education.



*(Professor Tony Bush, Editor-in-Chief for Educational Management Administration & Leadership)*

The academic exchange week was also supported by other parts of UoN, including Professor Paul Grainge (Academic Director, City as Lab) who introduced to the delegates UoN's City as Lab and Castle Meadows Campus; Dr Ruby Chau (Associate Professor, School of Sociology and Social Policy) who presented her research on childcare gap; Chang Le (Strategic International Research Development Manager) who presented an overview of possible international research grants; and Begum Karacaoglu (Global Engagement Officer) who showed the delegates around our University Park campus.



*(Professor Paul Grainge introducing City as Lab to ECNU delegates)*

In addition, four local schools in Nottingham hosted visits from the delegates and exchanged knowledge on the two countries' education systems, especially on mathematics education. They are: Victoria Primary School, Larkfields Junior School, George Spencer Academy, and Chetwynd Primary Academy.



*(ECNU delegates with the Head Teacher and staff from Larkfields Junior School.)*

Thank you to all UoN staff and students and UNESCO Chair members who have contributed to the academic exchange week and have impressed the delegates from ECNU. The feedback was highly positive, both on the week and on the wider UoN community. ECNU delegates really appreciated the atmosphere they felt while at UoN and the School of Education - friendly, supportive, collegial, and engaging; which we have been working hard on as a school/university and it's been seen as obvious by visitors. The delegates were also impressed by the research culture we demonstrate, strong, international, and nurturing.