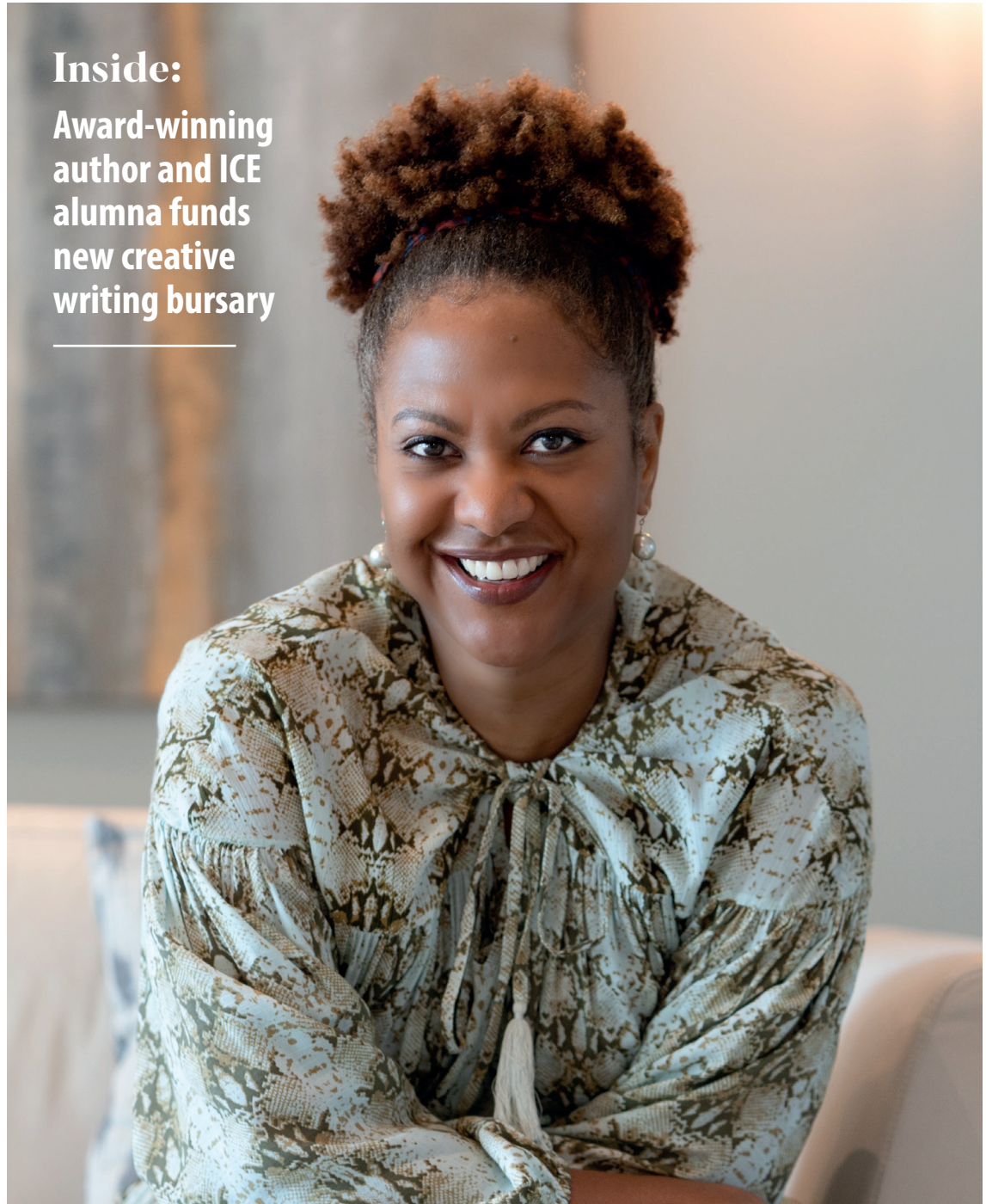




# ICE INSIDE

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author and ICE  
alumna funds  
new creative  
writing bursary



**2023 award ceremonies:  
celebrating success**



**100th anniversary:  
a global summer  
programme**



**Supporting prospective  
students: enrolment  
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Behind the scenes at the Institute of Continuing Education and Maddingley Hall





# ICE

## ICE

The Institute of Continuing Education, or ICE, is part of the University of Cambridge, one of the world's leading research institutes, where our purpose is to provide accessible, flexible and meaningful education to adults throughout their lives. Irrespective of whether you're taking your first steps in higher education or progressing to midcareer postgraduate study, ICE's aim is to form supportive communities of learning where expert teachers and adult students work together as peers to achieve personal and collective educational goals. Study at ICE is characterised by friendly groups of committed students engaging with important learning against the backdrop of the resources of one of the world's best universities. We promote evidence-based exploration, critical enquiry and free speech in welcoming and respectful classrooms. Our discussions extend over virtual or in-person tea breaks, cake, garden strolls, informal lunches in Maddingley Hall's dining room and globally across Zoom, WhatsApp and our virtual learning environment. ICE is a place where professional networks are formed, friendships are made and learning is cherished.

If you have a story that you think others might be interested to hear about in the next edition of Inside ICE, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch via [communications@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:communications@ice.cam.ac.uk)



# Welcome to Inside ICE

Welcome to this Lent-Easter 2024 edition of Inside ICE.

The past year, one that has seen a range of celebratory events marking the 150th anniversary of our formation and the 100th anniversary of the summer programme, has been a chance to both look back and contemplate the future.

It has been a privilege to meet with former and current students, drawn from around the country and throughout the world, and listen to their experiences of the Institute across the decades. Each of their stories unique but all with the consistent themes of the joy of learning and a sense of belonging alongside peer learners and expert tutors.

Further, it's been an opportunity to bring together former colleagues from across the years and reminisce over their experiences of delivering courses in a huge variety of disciplines - many breaking new ground in emerging fields - in regional centres, Cambridge colleges, online across the world and, of course, at Madingley Hall.

It was fantastic to return to in-person awards ceremonies marking the achievements of our students who completed their studies during the pandemic-impacted years. In three ceremonies during the last weekend in September, over 400 learners attended with their families and supporters.

I hope our founders Anne Clough, Josephine Butler and James Stuart would have felt that their vision of an open university at Cambridge had been preserved and nurtured, working to support the aspirations of adult learners. The student representatives who spoke at each award ceremony undoubtedly exemplified their aspirations of education which promoted equality of opportunity, personal growth and community engagement.

Looking ahead, this issue also captures new projects as we address the future and seek to respond to emerging opportunities and challenges. For instance, it features a new collaboration which will accelerate the creation of courses in fields such as data science where there are profound skills shortages and, consequently, significant career opportunities.

In other developments, the launch of a new undergraduate course is described which links key themes in ecology, conservation and contemporary domains such as climate change and preserving biodiversity.

During the 2023-24 academic year we will deliver around 200 courses. They will each draw on enduring principles – dating back to the 1870s and still relevant today - of adults at all life stages learning together, exploring new fields and building mutual understanding. We hope you will consider joining us and being an active part of one of our future communities of learning.



Dr James 'Jim' Gazzard,  
Director of Continuing Education.

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150th anniversary celebratory dinner, September 2023



# The first open university: reflecting on 150th anniversary

This year has seen ICE host a range of activities to mark its 150th anniversary. As 2023 draws to a close, we look back at some of the year's highlights.

ICE's 150th anniversary has been an opportunity to recognise the Institute's pioneering formation, brought about by the vision of campaigners **Anne Clough** and **Josephine Butler** and the educator **James Stuart**.

Since 1873, ICE's mission has been to make education accessible to more people, regardless of background. That's why Dr James Gazzard, Director of Continuing Education, emphasises that 2023 has been about "celebrating the genuinely

transformational learning impact the Institute has had on so many adult learners, as well as thanking the academics and administrators who have worked tirelessly to facilitate that impact here at Madingley Hall and in the extension programmes delivered in village halls, town libraries and community centres across our region."

With the anniversary reflections now over, ICE is determined to continue creating a welcoming community of adult learners from all walks of life – whatever the future brings.

"It's vital that we keep innovating and adapting – from artificial intelligence to augmented reality – so that we offer people the tailored learning and support they need to embrace the changing world and the opportunities this presents," says James.



Tree planting at Madingley Hall in February 2023. Richard Stuckey (Director of Finance, IT Systems and Partnerships), Sarah Ormrod (Director of International Summer Programmes and Lifelong Learning), Jim Gazzard (Director of Continuing Education) and Richard Gant (Head Gardener).

## Learn more

Prof. Mark Freeman's book about the last 50 years of the Institute, **The Vital Message: Continuing Education and the University of Cambridge 1945-2010** is published in December 2023.



# 2023 award ceremonies: celebrating success

On the final weekend of September in 2023, we were delighted to confer a variety of undergraduate and postgraduate awards to over 400 learners during three joyful ceremonies. The events were all inspiring occasions, hosted at Madingley Hall with many friends and family in attendance.

For these student awardees, the day of their ceremony was long awaited due to having studied during the Covid impacted years. The classes of 2019-20, 2020-21 2021-22 finally got to receive the recognition they deserve for their incredible achievements.



Reflecting on her special day, Binita Mahato who studied the Undergraduate Certificate in Strategic Business Management, shares her reflection.

"The day of the Cambridge University ICE award ceremony was nothing short of a surreal and momentous experience. It was a culmination of years of determination, hard work, and a deep belief in the power of education. It felt like a dream and a testament to the incredible opportunities that life can offer.

Like any other day, my husband played an important role in supporting me to give my speech. Unfortunately, he was taking care of our daughter so could not be there. It was a bittersweet moment, as I felt a pang of sadness to not have him present for my big moment. Thankfully, technology allowed him to watch the recorded speech later.

I was a bit shy and nervous at the beginning of my speech, as the weight of the moment bore down on me. However, as I spoke and shared my journey, the warmth and encouragement from the audience eased my anxiety.

Completing my speech and attending the award reception was a significant moment. The applause and positive response from everyone attending the ceremony truly made my day. Many people approached me, offered their congratulations, and even embraced me with warm hugs. This overwhelming support filled me with immense pride and a deep sense of accomplishment.

What the ceremony meant to me cannot be easily expressed in words. It was a reminder of the transformative power of education and the belief that every individual has the potential to make a difference in the world."

Sarah Ibbetson, Studied the Diploma in Creative Writing. She speaks of her day at the awards:

"It has been a long haul to get there, I can jolly well tell you, and not just because Cambridge is a long way away from the Lake District. I am doing a Master's degree at Madingley now, but a couple of years ago, when I first put my trembling fingers to the keyboard to apply to study for their Diploma, it seemed most likely that somebody would pick up my low-brow application with a set of genteel tweezers and deposit it, carefully, in a distant litter bin.

We celebrated our awards at the Madingley Hall bash. All the academic hopefuls I had got to know through a computer screen, had turned out to be just as anxious as I was. We had read our stories to one another and secretly confided our ambitions to one another. We had listened and learned and frowned and pondered, and slowly, Cambridge taught me to write.

It was the most amazing, wonderful weekend, filled with good food, and wine, and listening to some of the cleverest, most interesting people I have ever met. We took a punt down the river and sang songs around the piano, and walked around the beautiful gardens, and talked and laughed and shared our stories.

I shall never forget our kindly tutors. They believed in me. They looked past the tea-stained jumper and listened to what I thought I wanted to say.

Then they helped me to say it better.

I am trying to write a novel now. If one day you read it in print, it will be thanks to their patience.

I will always be grateful."

Many students in attendance will likely mirror the positive reflections shared by Binita and Sarah and will hold fond memories of the weekend for quite some time.



**Learn more**

Scan here if you would like to view recordings of the student addresses spoken at the awards ceremonies.





# All the talents: Sara Collins supports bursary to promote inclusion

ICE is thrilled to announce that one of its most famous alumnae – award-winning author **Sara Collins** – is funding a creative writing bursary to encourage aspiring Black British Caribbean writers to pursue their passion.

Sara completed her Master of Studies in Creative Writing at ICE in 2016, graduating with distinction. Within three years, her stunning debut novel *The Confessions of Frannie Langton* had won the 2019 Costa First Novel Award, and Sara subsequently adapted the story into a glittering, star-studded ITV series.

On the heels of her success, Sara – who was born in Jamaica and grew up in the Cayman Islands – wants to offer more aspiring writers the opportunity to follow their literary dreams, too.

“The MSt in Creative Writing at ICE was the first door I opened towards becoming a novelist,” recalls Sara. “Since I graduated, I’ve been thinking about doing what I can to give back.”



“What’s exciting to me is that, for people who’ve had to suppress their dreams of writing to focus on work or family or other responsibilities, this bursary will give them room to write.”

### Introducing the Joy Brandon bursary

Open to eligible applicants commencing their studies in 2024-25, the new Joy Brandon bursary will offer significant financial assistance to one Black British Caribbean student embarking on a part-time, two-year MSt in either Creative Writing or Writing for Performance at ICE.

In addition, ICE will match Sara’s generous donation from our James Stuart Endowment Fund, meaning that two students stand to receive substantial support towards pursuing their creative writing passions.

The bursary will cover over 80% of the total course fees, so the successful applicants will contribute £3,200 per year to enrol on one of two world-class University of Cambridge courses in autumn 2024. The programmes are taught in short, intensive blocks, making them accessible to learners in full or part-time employment.

### Giving aspiring writers ‘room to write’

“The degree can help to provide a framework for getting the writing done,” explains Sara. “What’s exciting to me is that, for people who’ve had to suppress their dreams of writing to focus on work or family or other responsibilities, this bursary will give them room to write.”

While Sara is inspiring a new generation of writers, she has named the bursary after her own role model: “Joy Brandon was my aunt. She was a journalist and a radio news broadcaster, as well as an amateur poet and a playwright on the side, skills which she pursued enthusiastically and passionately. Her example kept me motivated. I think she’d have got a kick out of having this bursary dedicated to her.”

And Sara believes there’s a rich vein of Black British Caribbean writing talent that is as yet untapped. “This is my background, and I’m convinced it’s full of writers who have a lot to say but might even now be prevented by the obstacles from pursuing their own writing,” she explains. “The Caribbean is full of amazing stories and talented people.”

## Bursaries: opening the Cambridge experience to you?

One of ICE’s biggest priorities is to develop and promote opportunities to study at the University of Cambridge to a broad range of adult learners, including those for whom financial circumstances might prove a barrier to study.

The Institute helps learners juggle multiple demands on their time by offering part-time and flexible learning. But for many potential adult students – whether looking to study for personal interest or professional development – the costs of study can be challenging. That’s why ICE also offers many different bursaries that help reduce or remove the possible barriers to learning, especially for those with no previous experience of higher education.

If you think support with fees could make the difference to your future, why not see what financial support is currently available by following the link to our bursaries below? We are grateful for our generous supporters who fund our bursary offer.



### Learn more

Scan here to find out more about the Joy Brandon bursary and other financial support available at ICE.



# Accessing knowledge economy careers: new collaboration to support adults access in-demand skills

New Career Accelerators co-designed by ICE, education company FourthRev and industry partners, will help adults meet the skills shortage for in-demand high-tech roles.



Dr Ali Al-Sherbaz - Assistant Professor and Academic Director for Digital Skills courses (Data Science, AI and Cyber Security)

## Bridging a growing skills gap

As machine learning and artificial intelligence promise to revolutionise working practices, the UK is already experiencing a growing data skills crisis: 63% of companies investing in AI technology claim there's a shortage of the skills they need. This problem will only grow as AI becomes more widely adopted and more powerful.

Working with leading industry and technology companies, such as the Bank of England and SAS, the first Career Accelerator aims to help bridge the skills gap by equipping learners with a sound understanding of data science principles and applications. It will also provide valuable commercial knowledge, project experience and interpersonal skills directly relevant to this fast-growing field.

The new programme will enable adults to develop their careers in data science and benefit from recent advances in technology. By emphasising a business-oriented mindset, the Career Accelerator ensures that taught skills build career resilience by matching them with real-world needs.

Dr James Gazzard, Director of Continuing Education at ICE, believes this cooperative approach is vital for employees and businesses to achieve their goals in a rapidly changing workplace: "We're committed to helping adult learners from all backgrounds gain access to the digital economy. Our collaboration with FourthRev to develop Career Accelerators will play a key role in delivering on that mission."

"The current shortage of data skills calls for novel solutions to address industry's challenges. Through this new programme, we aim to ensure that graduates are reflective and responsible thinkers, able to fully understand the challenges and opportunities that new technologies present with respect to ethics, security and society."

Mark Lester, Chief Partnerships Officer at FourthRev, agrees there's a need to find innovative ways of addressing the skills gap: "The world needs a new model of education for the digital age that harnesses the knowledge and critical thinking nurtured by leading universities and applies it to the messy business and human challenges encountered in industry. Many other programmes are either too theoretical or too skills-orientated, leaving employers short of talent to solve their challenges efficiently."

## A supportive, future-ready programme

And Roderick Crawford, Senior VP for SAS Northern Europe – one of the businesses that co-developed the inaugural programme – believes the Career Accelerators could enable people to enjoy successful careers in an exciting, emerging field: "At SAS, we find this collaborative model a powerful way to help universities develop the next generation of professionals suited to the challenges faced by modern business."

*"It's vital that even best-in-class AI technology has some human oversight, so we will continue to need people with the skills to understand how it works and how to monitor and adapt its use."*

The Career Accelerator in Data Science will offer taught modules in critical, technical and business skills, all applied across applied projects co-designed with employers. Throughout the programme, learners will also access live masterclasses delivered by leading practitioners from both the University of Cambridge and industry, and create a portfolio of project work demonstrating their data science skills. They'll also get support from a dedicated professional Career Coach and Success Manager to help them achieve their learning and career goals.

The first programme is due to launch in the first half of 2024.



**Learn more**

Scan here for more information about Career Accelerators



# Ecology and conservation: a new certificate to explore the evidence in a contested field

Dr. Max Bodmer introduces the “Undergraduate Certificate in Ecology and Conservation”.

## Plugging the gap

Nobody can fail to be aware of the current global climate and bio-diversity loss crisis. And with the upsurge in green industries to address it, comes an increasing and urgent requirement for a skilled, green workforce.

Dr. Max Bodmer will help train people who are much needed in this burgeoning industry.

“There’s been a lot in media recently about how one of the biggest barriers to us achieving net zero and other targets is going to be a lack of skills and focus in the green sector. That largely comes from a lack of training opportunities, so these kinds of courses are a really important help to plug that skills gap.”

The idea of the course is to not only provide a theoretical understanding, but also as it’s a skills focused course, to supply students with the skills they need in order to work in the environmental sector, or to apply those skills in their current workplace.”

## What’s special about this ICE course?

“One of the course’s unique selling point would be that I work in the field of ecology and conservation, so a lot of the tutors are going to be from my network, actual ecologists and conservationists. Our guest lecturers will have experience of running conservation projects and all the triumphs and difficulties involved.”

“I hope a course like this becomes standard and that you get them world-wide, because that’s what we really need to help create a workforce large and skilled enough to tackle these mammoth problems.”



**Learn more**

Scan here to find out more about the Undergraduate Certificate in Ecology and Conservation



## Spotlight on Dr. Rasoul Khandan

Introducing Dr. Rasoul Khandan: Deputy Director for Apprenticeships and Technical Education.

### A passion for engineering and lecturing.

As a boy in Iran, Rasoul decided that his future lay in engineering. A Bachelor’s degree, then an MSc in mechanical engineering later, he accepted a scholarship to the UK to complete his PhD.

Post Doctorate work at Swansea University gave him the opportunity for two years of teaching and research, before moving to Loughborough University as a lecturer.

Another move followed to Northampton University as Senior Lecturer, where he set up a highly successful post graduate programme in Advanced Design and Manufacturing.

Then Aston University, where he became the head of Aston Professional Engineering Centre, delivering a wide range of multi-disciplinary, work- based learning and degree apprenticeship programmes. Now, we welcome him to ICE.

### Looking at things differently.

“Since I was little” says Rasoul, “I always wanted to become a lecturer and work in academia” he pauses “well, either that or become a stand- up comedian.” He laughs.

“I’m really into stand-up and there are similarities between it and lecturing. You need to present, communicate and engage with your audience. It’s how I relax in my down-time.”

His responsibilities at ICE involve introducing a whole new range of people who don’t think of themselves as being eligible to learn at University of Cambridge, to the fact they can.

“The opportunity to widen the participation here to other types of learners attracted me. A lot of companies and organisations don’t realise they can send their staff here under the apprenticeship scheme. Both the companies and their employees benefit from this huge opportunity.”

### ...and for the future.

“We’ve all seen jobs disappearing as technology advances, but it also creates new jobs and opportunities. We need to help staff to move on to those new jobs, by supplying them with fresh skills and training.”



**Learn more**

Scan here for more information about Apprenticeships and Technical Education



# 100th anniversary: a global International Summer Programme



His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester visited Madingley Hall & Gardens to mark the 100th anniversary of the University of Cambridge International Summer Programmes.

## Celebrating an educational milestone with a Royal visit

This year is the 100th anniversary of the International Summer Programme during which time over 50,000 students have attended, enjoying the social interaction and benefitting from learning at one of the leading universities in the world.

For the last 35 of those years Sarah Ormrod, Director of International Summer Programmes and Lifelong Learning has been a driving force behind its organisation.

"36 years now" she corrects politely, with a smile, "... I never really expected it to last this long as a career. But it's been the delicious variety of things that I've been involved with that makes it feel like a completely new year every year.

The fact that we've made it to 100 years, despite the trials of the COVID years and of course a World War and that we've grown to include over 700 students this year, from 60 countries aged 18 to 88 is something to be proud of."

## The Royal seal of approval

The 100th anniversary was celebrated with special concerts and parties, including one for over 250 people at Madingley Hall, which the HRH Duke of Gloucester attended.

"He met a lot of the students, lecturers and ICE colleagues. He talked to bursary recipients, new students and people who'd been coming for years," says Sarah.

## What can prospective students expect from the International Summer Programme?

Participants can study for between one and four weeks, selecting courses that last either one or two weeks.

**Some 75 different lecturers contribute on subjects which span the arts, sciences and professional fields:**

- Foundations of finance
- Immunology and infection: a beginner's guide
- Writing fiction for children
- Making sense of international migration
- Earth's climate history
- Social media's global challenge
- The catastrophic 14th century

And many more.





## Who comes to the International Summer Programme?

"We get a mixture of current undergraduates, students of all ages, as well as more and more professionals who want to study something that may be related to their job, or even something that is totally different just to refresh their perspective." Sarah says.

"I used to have a group of surgeons who just wanted to study Shakespeare in their free time" she adds.

"And of course, we have our returning students who make up a surprising 25% of participants. There are even one or two who came the first year I was involved, and still do.

Students from over 60 countries attended the International Summer Programme.

And we hear wonderful stories like "I'm here now because my Dad came 30 years ago."

But wherever they're from and whatever they do, many will find the International Summer Programme a life-changing experience."



## Plenary lectures

Summer students also enjoy a series of plenary lectures delivered by over 40 speakers.

"I get a free education every summer," resumes Sarah, '... because I chair a lot of the plenary lectures. So my mind is blown one minute by how fast the Universe is expanding, in the next by the latest thinking about Hadrian's Wall."

Many prestigious guests have delivered plenary lectures to the International Summer Programme including Nobel prize winners Sir Maurice Wilkes and Professor Sir John Gurdon. Also, former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, Dame Janet Suzman, Kate Adie, Dr David Starkey and the University's new Vice Chancellor, Professor Prentice.

## Cambridge: a unique location

Students get to discover the delights of the historic city and University of Cambridge and stay (if they choose) in one of four Colleges: Selwyn, Newnham, St Catharine's and Queens'. They are usually taught on the Sidgwick site, but some also experience the thrill of being taught in Cambridge's famous galleries and museums.

## Looking to the future

"We're driven by the desire to ensure more students hear about us and join up for the International Summer Programme. There are still those who are put off by thinking they're not good enough to do a course at Cambridge, but that's nonsense - there really is something for everyone who wants to learn.

We put on courses for people to come to enjoy something of Cambridge learning. That's what it's all about.

And it's an unbelievable privilege to be able to do this, for a fabulous University."

Sarah and her team have produced a booklet, charting the story of the 100 years of the International Summer Programmes and including contributions from the students themselves.



**Learn more**

Scan here to apply for the International Summer Programme

# Meet the ICE tutors

Have you ever wondered what makes your course tutors tick? Inside ICE meets some of the Institute's academics to find out more about them: from what they love about their subject to their current research projects.

“ *My favourite part of teaching is the actual teaching itself. I know it sounds very obvious, but giving people information that surprises them and changes their mind is amazing.* ”



**Learn more**

Scan here to learn more about our tutors

## Dr Giles Yeo MBE

Tutor of Genomic and  
Transcriptomics in Genomic  
Medicine



I am a geneticist working on the control of body weight and at ICE, I teach a module within genomic medicine. I trained as a geneticist, eventually studying the genetics of body weight in general, which is called Transcriptomics. My current job is understanding how our brain influences why we eat, when we eat and how much we eat and the role our brain plays in this.

People are beginning to realise that we are all different which is why research in this field is essential. What this particular course teaches you, is how data plays a role in personalising medicine, therapies and even responses to therapies. Anyone interested in working in the field would benefit greatly from this groundbreaking research, whether it be an individual working in the medical community or a scientist.

What I like most about my field of study, is that understanding the genomic and how it influences practice is fascinating. There is no one magical treatment and this research allows us to see the density of humankind.

I decided to get involved with continuing education because we are in an era of democratisation of genetics and I think that we should play a role in educating people about it. My favourite part of teaching is the actual teaching itself. I know it sounds very obvious, but giving people information that surprises them and changes their mind is amazing.

I was mostly inspired by my PhD supervisor at Cambridge University. He was someone who truly understood genetics and he taught me the saying: "An ounce of genetics is worth a pound of function." I think that line is what got me the most interested in genetics.

My personal best study advice is: "Know what you know and know what you don't know." If you can define what you need to learn, you will go a long way.



## Annabel Harper

Tutor on ICE's Certificate in Coaching and Diploma in Coaching courses.



I started my career as a journalist and last worked for the BBC, before moving to people management and coaching. I really enjoyed it and decided I wanted to do this as a second career, so left my job and studied a Master's in Coaching and Mentoring Practice at Oxford Brookes. I soon set up my own coaching business and joined an executive coaching team at London Business School.

I have ended up doing a lot of work in the Middle East, so studied a Master's in Middle Eastern Studies to learn more about the contemporary culture of the region. It has become a great area of interest to me.

I think anybody who is interested in working with people to help them get the best out of themselves would love coaching. If you are naturally curious about people and what makes them tick- it is a great profession. It is fascinating and a huge privilege to sit with people whilst they are going through the ups and downs of their lives.

People are starting to realise that it can be quite lonely at the top. For leaders, having a coach is very beneficial as it is a safe and confidential shoulder to lean on. Talking through their internal struggles in the workplace can lead to clarity and improve their quality of thinking. What I love most about my subject is being with so many different people from different walks of life, different industries and different nationalities.

I decided to get involved with continuing education because I love working with people who are learning about coaching. I have a very great attachment to Cambridge and have family here, so the opportunity to work specifically for the Institute of Continuing Education was a joy. I have been working at the Institute for 4 years now. Seeing how students develop and thrive in the learning environment is great to be a part of.

The best study advice is to make a note of anything that piques your interest. You will read an awful lot, so make a note to ensure you remember key things.

Outside of work, I think it very important to have time to relax- this is very important for students too! Being with family, walking my dogs, seeing friends, travelling when I can and being mindful about having a break to decompress is essential to success.

## Hardip Sanghera

Tutor of Advanced Diploma in Astronomy; 3 online courses.



I have a Ph.D. from Jodrell Bank, University of Manchester, based on study of a class of radio loud active galaxies and quasars. I then did a post-doctorate position at the Joint Institute for VLBI in Europe (JIVE), based in the Netherlands, before moving into IT support for astronomy in Cambridge (including the CMB Planck telescope), where I have remained ever since.

People should consider studying my subject because of the exciting aims of my courses, which are to:

- Put into context our place in the universe.
- Increase your awe, wonder, and curiosity about the wider cosmos, and provide a structure and understanding for your own research into the subject.
- Help you appreciate how vast and roomy is the cosmos.
- Why Earth is so special.

My subject is relevant to the current world because in our search for life and habitable worlds out there, we can perhaps understand how rare life may be and how fragile, and precious, the Earth is. By understanding how space is deeply inhospitable to humans, we are therefore compelled to take as much care as we can of this wonderful place, we call home.

What I love most about my subject is its beauty, but humbling nature.

I got involved in continuing education because an opportunity arose to get involved with teaching a module on the Certificate in Astronomy course outside of ICE. This led to additional involvement in adult education classes on Astronomy. And then with the pandemic an opportunity to create a trilogy of astronomy courses. The student feedback has been extremely positive.

My favourite part of teaching is having the opportunity to meet people from all over the world with all different experiences and have insight into their views on this fascinating world we are lucky to inhabit.

Outside of work, I like to do my online astronomy courses, which are always requiring updating as the subject is undergoing another golden age of discovery (e.g. JWST). Enjoying family life and the simple pleasures of being alive.

# Supporting prospective students: enrolments made easier

In 2023, ICE boosted its support for prospective students and applicants by expanding its enrolment team making the enrolments process clearer and quicker for our learners.



Kate Lintern (Student Enrolment Coordinator), Cally Cardines (Student Enrolment Coordinator) and Lucy White (Student Enrolment Assistant)

## A welcoming one-stop shop for all applicants

For 150 years, ICE's mission has been to widen participation, and the enduring belief that everyone should have access to higher education has driven the Institute to set up a new, full-time Enrolment team.

After lots of behind-the-scenes work – from designing a strategy to recruiting staff – a key moment came in the run up to the 2023-24 academic year, when the newly expanded team opened its communication lines to prospective undergraduate students for the first time.

The new team hopes to provide a one-stop shop for all potential applicants, providing reassurance, guidance and confidence throughout the application process and supporting them right up until they enrol. They're available to help anyone, from those with questions about which course is best for them or how part-time learning works, to anyone in need of further information about a specific programme.

And ICE is particularly keen to provide a welcoming, inclusive and valuable experience to adults who are looking to learn for the first time or return to higher education after a break, especially those who don't see themselves reflected in a traditional learning environment or wouldn't otherwise be able to study at the University of Cambridge.



## Learn more

Scan here to find out more about the undergraduate courses available at ICE

## Help with questions of finance, readiness to learn and wellbeing

Widening access for adult learners, including those with limited or no experience of higher education, isn't only about course related queries: money and health are often barriers to study. So, if someone has questions about funding support, the enrolment team can chat through things like the eligibility criteria for the many different bursaries available. Similarly, if a student has a disability, health issue or any additional learning needs, the advisors can support with introductions to ICE's Welfare and Disability teams.

Once learners are ready to apply, the team can provide guidance on completing their course applications and writing a strong personal statement. Even after submission, including once prospective students receive a decision about their applications, ICE's enrolment team is still available to answer any questions or offer advice on next steps.

## Looking ahead to 2024

After a busy first enrolment period, the team is currently taking time to evaluate its maiden year together, reviewing feedback and looking ahead to 2024. In a spirit of continuous improvement, the Institute is keen to understand how prospective students experience the application process and what else the team can do to support applicants.

That process is likely to see the team extend their expertise to even more areas in time for next year's enrolment peak, with several exciting developments already being discussed. In the meantime, the team would like any potentially hesitant applicants to know that they shouldn't be shy about asking questions; they are ready to listen, whether that's via the contact us page on the website, email or phone call. They look forward to connecting with you this year!



# Medicine and healthcare: expanding ICE's professional course portfolio

The fields of medicine and healthcare are changing rapidly to meet the needs of patients. ICE's newly expanded Medicine Health team is bringing flexibly delivered, cutting-edge courses in partnership with the University's School of Clinical Medicine designed to help adult learners make a real difference to human health. Inside ICE asked four of the team to give us a brief insight into their worlds.



Dr Kenny Langlands, Dr Emma English, Dr Fatemeh Torabi and Dr Detina Zalli

## Dr Emma English

**Joined:** September 2023

**Role:** Academic Director, Medicine and Health

**Background:** Clinical biochemistry and in vitro diagnostics, with a focus on diabetes testing where resources are limited.

**What I love about my subject:** Clinical scientists are fortunate to be able to apply their love of science to help people's health.

**Interesting fact:** As a rostered consultant to the World Health Organization, I'm passionate about global health and education.



## Dr Kenneth Langlands

**Joined:** September 2023

**Role:** Course Director, MSt Genomic Medicine, UG Cert and Dip in Genetics

**Background:** Experienced medical educationalist and researcher in cancer biology and biomedical informatics.

**What I love about my subject:** It's an exciting time for genomic medicine. Genetics is centre stage in transforming health outcomes.

**Interesting fact:** I previously helped set up a university's medical school, so I appreciate the value of creating a community of learners, educators and patients.



## Dr Detina Zalli

**Joined:** May 2022

**Role:** Course Director, CertHE in Pre-Medical Studies

**Course in a sentence:** Expanding access to undergraduate medicine degrees for mature students in the East of England.

**What I love about my subject:** The endless potential for scientific innovation in oncology and genomics to improve diagnosis and treatment.

**Interesting fact:** I graduated from a NASA programme that prepares scientists to conduct experiments in space!



## Fatemeh Torabi

**Joined:** November 2023

**Role:** Course Director, MSt Healthcare Data

**Background:** Mathematical statistician and more than 10 years' experience of working on a range of data science projects.

**Course in a sentence:** Equips students with the skills and knowledge to play effective roles in health data science projects.

**What I love about my subject:** Its capacity to directly influence patient care and support data-informed decision-making.



# “Learners’ stories

Inside ICE meets some of the Institute’s lifelong learners to find out more about their motivations and what it’s like to study at ICE.



**Beverley**

**Diploma in International Relations**

Studying this course at ICE appealed to me as a lone parent working two jobs. I recently suffered from a brain haemorrhage and was looking for something to engage my brain as a good rehabilitating exercise. This course catered to both my professional and personal interests and the part-time nature allowed me to find a good balance with my professional and home life.

It is still early days in the course, but I have already learned so much! The tutor and lecturers are very helpful and convey information in a way that doesn’t make anyone feel alienated, the content is very accessible. Being a lone parent, I have had to miss some sessions through my children’s inevitable autumn back to school illnesses, but the sessions are recorded so this has helped me get back on track.

I received the 150th anniversary bursary- as a single mother, my household income is under the threshold, and I have never been to university. In fact, I am the first person in my family to ever study at a university. Simply, without this bursary I would not have been able to do this course.

I hope to one day work at an international institution, NGO or charity that specialises in overseas welfare or development.

To anybody considering studying at ICE, I would advise checking what financial help you could get. Without the bursary I received, I may not have had a chance to study this course, which has been crucial to me on both a personal and academic level.



**Souhardya**

**Undergraduate Certificate in History**

I studied at ICE after receiving the First Time Higher Education Bursary for Arts and Humanities. Prior to doing the history undergraduate certificate, I passed my higher secondary qualifications back home in India. I am now working towards my undergraduate bachelor’s degree in history at the University of Bristol.

I definitely would not have been able to do the course if I didn’t receive the bursary. The financial constraint was taken away and gave me the opportunity to follow my aspirations.

My experience on the course was fantastic. My professors were very supportive throughout the entire programme. They helped me delve deeper into my modules with weekly chats and meet ups

as well as the lectures. It helped me connect to my professors and get the most out of their tuition.

The whole community of my course was very warm and welcoming- we had a fairly international community from all over the world. Different perspective and voices led to so many new insights. We even had a recent catch up in London- it was fun to get together. There was also a diverse age range with students ranging from 18 years to mature learners able to share opinions without fear of being judged.

I am very grateful for what the bursary has enabled me to achieve, and how it continues to help me progress on my career path.



**Margaret**

**MSt in History of Art and Visual Culture**

Art history has always been a personal interest for me. I am a retired finance director and decided to study purely for my own pleasure and to develop my understanding. Studying at the Institute of Continuing Education appealed to me most as it allowed me to be taught part-time.

Since doing the course, I can now look at a work of art of material culture with a completely new eye; understanding how to interpret the object and the relevant context. I would say my understanding has gone from casual to deeply informed.

Studying has helped me achieve a high level of personal satisfaction and confidence that in my mid 60s I am still able to learn and develop. I felt truly inspired by the young people I met on my studies- they gave me great hope for the future.

To any students considering enrolling at ICE, I can reassure you that the combination of intellectual challenge and personal support is outstanding, and I would wholeheartedly recommend the experience.

