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LONDON / JUNE 3-5



Northeastern
University



Welcome to GLS London 2026

WHY LONDON?

From its thriving tech corridors to its role in climate action, AI governance, and global commerce, London is one of the world’s most connected capitals.

Innovation, Resilience, and Global Collaboration

London’s current at the intersection of finance, technology, and culture drives the momentum of this year’s summit, animating our conversations around leadership, cross-industry innovation, and our future as a society.

Intergenerational Exchange

This vibrant group of leaders, ranging from entering students to senior executives, comes together at our summit to learn from and connect with one another.



Engage, learn, and be inspired by a city in constant motion with worldwide impact.

Northeastern’s London Presence

Steps from the Central Business District, Northeastern University London’s campus puts students in the center of the industries shaping our global economy. As part of our global network of campuses, London expands opportunities for both students and employer partners to solve real-world challenges together. *Learn more about the London campus on page 7.*



A WORLDWIDE COMMITMENT TO BOLD THINKING

PARIS • SHANGHAI • MUMBAI • ACCRA • SINGAPORE • MIAMI

The Global Leadership Summit began in 2018 with a simple but ambitious idea: a forum that moves with the world, bringing Northeastern’s global community together to examine the forces reshaping it.

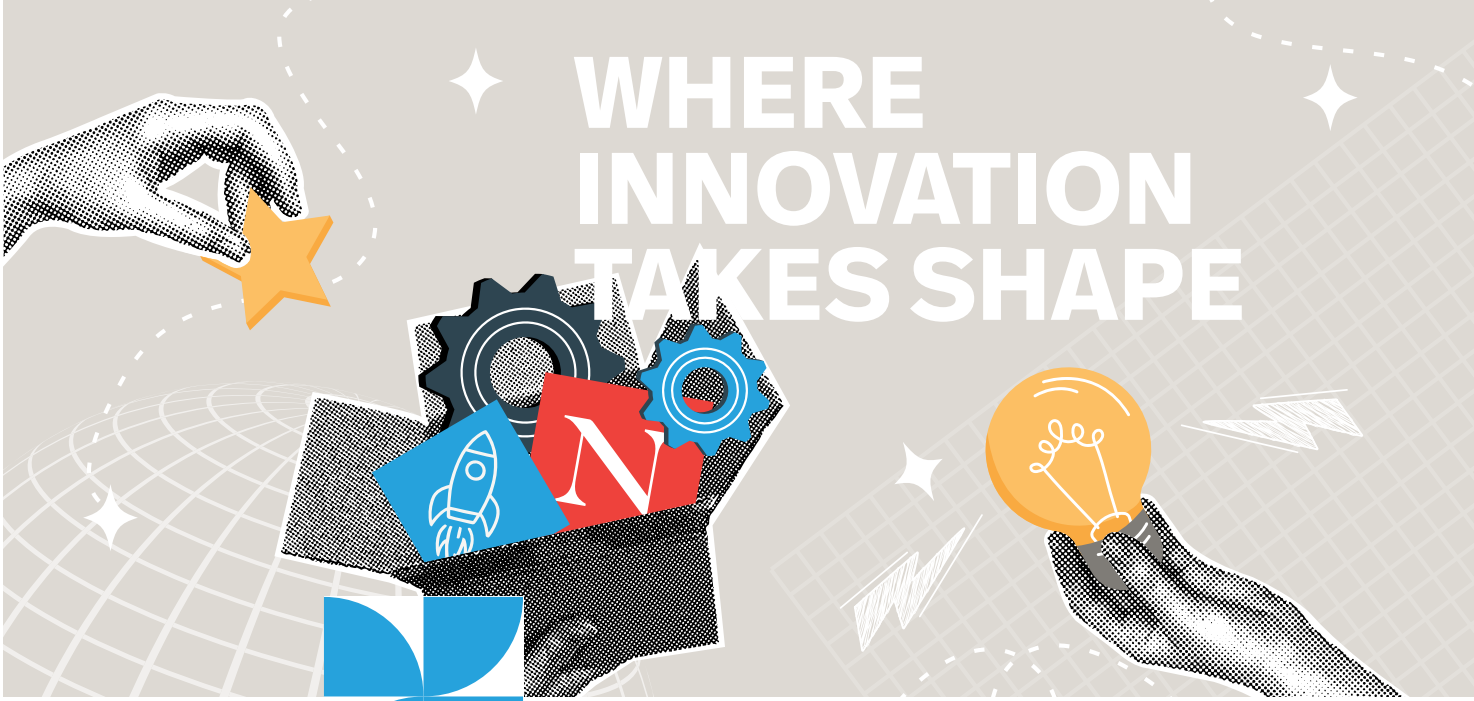
A Legacy in Motion

Now in its seventh year, GLS has grown into a signature experience for Northeastern’s worldwide network—a launchpad for partnerships, ventures, and ideas that continue long after the final session.

This year, for the first time, GLS introduces the Global Venture Forum: a dedicated track for founders, builders, and investors, featuring peer exchanges and a live £100,000 venture competition.



WHERE INNOVATION TAKES SHAPE



The Power of Place

Each host city has shaped the conversation differently, offering its own lens on leadership, entrepreneurship, and the forces remaking the world. The 2026 agenda is built to meet the urgency of worldwide shifts and challenges head on. Throughout the summit, you’ll explore the ideas, industries, and global forces shaping what comes next.



In Demand,
Driven by
Excellence

STUDENTS APPLYING

106K+

undergraduate
applications
for fall 2026

OUTCOMES

96%

of undergraduates
employed or in
grad school
post-graduation

LIFELONG LEARNING

22K+

participants in
graduate and
certificate programs

2023 Global Leadership Summit

ACCRA



HUMAN LEADERSHIP IN THE AGE OF AI

A conversation with President Joseph E. Aoun on leading through disruption, the limits of artificial intelligence, and why experience remains humanity's greatest advantage.



Over 20 years at the helm of Northeastern University, President Joseph E. Aoun has championed experiential learning, humanics, and the power of global networks, to position Northeastern as the world's leading global, experiential university.

Q: This year's summit theme is "Human Leadership in the Age of AI." What does that mean to you?

Every generation of leaders faces a moment that demands more than competence. It demands reinvention. This is one of those moments. Geopolitical uncertainty, the fracturing of long-held assumptions about work and talent, and the rapid advance of artificial intelligence are reshaping how organizations operate and how people work. The leaders who thrive won't be the ones who wait for the terrain to stabilize. They will be the ones who understand that a world in motion is also a world of opportunity.

Q: Where do you see the human advantage in this landscape?

At a recent board retreat, a trustee put it well: Tomorrow's workforce requires heart, mind, and gut—not just technical expertise, but the values and judgment to make decisions amid uncertainty. We must never lose sight of what AI cannot do. It has no passion to create a better world. It does not understand contexts or the human judgment that comes from living in the world. **Experience is our ultimate human advantage.** It develops the qualities AI will never possess: curiosity, cultural agility, the capacity to listen without assumption and lead across any environment.

Q: Northeastern is meeting this moment in a distinctive way. How so?

Experiential learning is at the heart of how we prepare people for a rapidly changing world. Imagine how much a student learns designing cancer treatments at Biogen or helping diplomats draft accords to regulate autonomous weapons—the judgment, the humanity that only comes from operating in actual contexts, across cultures, and under real pressure. That is what we cultivate at Northeastern. And many of our students don't just learn in organizations, they build them. They discover that the skills that make a great founder are the same ones that make a great leader: the willingness to build while others are still debating what is possible. **The future doesn't belong to the most optimized. It belongs to the most original.**



152

countries where Northeastern has provided experiential learning opportunities

14K

co-op placements

34

NSF Graduate Research Fellowships held by current PhD students

448%

increase in research dollars since 2006

R1

research status achieved

Our Event Highlights

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY LONDON

Global Venture Forum and Curated Conversations

Live student and alumni founder pitches competing for £100,000 in grant funding, followed by 11 curated conversations across two chapters. These breakout sessions enable you to go deeper on the ideas, industries, and questions that bring you here.

Global Leadership Summit Opening Reception and Community Showcase

An opening night that brings the full community together for connection, conversation, and an interactive showcase of student and alumni ventures, faculty-led research, and more.

Northeastern University London

Established in 2019 through a historic partnership between Northeastern University and the New College of the Humanities, Northeastern University London is where the intellectual tradition of a British liberal arts education meets Northeastern’s experiential model. Students earn distinctive dual degrees from both the U.S. and U.K. simultaneously. Through co-op and degree apprenticeships, they work full time for London employers, building the technical depth, industry connections, and cross-cultural agility that set them apart.

Building Talent, Accelerating Innovation

Northeastern’s employer partnership model gives organizations direct access to emerging talent, applied research, and collaborative learning experiences designed around real business challenges, forging a sustained connection to a university built to move at the speed of industry.



Roman wall at Northeastern London’s Start-up Hub

Entrepreneurs draw inspiration from the timeless resilience of a 1,800-year-old structure. “The City Wall at Vine Street” is a museum and event space that is a focal point of our London Startup Hub. The wall has survived the fall of the Roman Empire, the Black Death, the Great Fire of London, and the World War II blitz.



London Campus at a Glance

Home to the European center for Northeastern’s Network Science Institute



Lifelong Learning in Action



This year, some summit participants have earned Northeastern University professional badges in Venture Acceleration and Entrepreneurial Leadership and AI Ethics and Digital Transformation Leadership by completing pre-summit coursework combined with learning from this extraordinary community.



2K

undergraduate students

62%

international students

230

postgraduate students

250

major partners in the region

30+

companies located at Startup Hub

1,500

area alumni

Our Event Highlights

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

BAFTA | 195 PICCADILLY

Global Leadership Summit

A full day on the main stage with some of the world’s most consequential leaders, meaningful moments to connect in between, and the announcement of our Global Venture Forum prize winners.

Global Entrepreneurship Award and Celebration

This awards ceremony will honor Sir Lucian Grainge, PNT’16, H’17, as the inaugural recipient of the Northeastern University Global Entrepreneurship Award, and will culminate in a celebratory reception, including a special performance featuring the Nor’easters. One of the most decorated collegiate vocal groups in the U.S., the Nor’easters are Northeastern University’s premier student-run a cappella ensemble. Three-time ICCA Champions—including a record-breaking win in 2026—they have performed everywhere from the White House to Fenway Park to London’s Bedford Square.



FRIDAY, JUNE 5

THE
NATIONAL
GALLERY

Exclusive Experience: The National Gallery, London

The National Gallery is home to more than 2,300 works by artists from Botticelli to Van Gogh. Our community will enjoy a private guided tour before doors open. *This experience is made possible by Katrin Henkel, PNT’21.*



Our Featured Speakers

Hemant Taneja

PNT’25, TRUSTEE, NORTHEASTERN /
CEO, GENERAL CATALYST

Hemant Taneja is the CEO of General Catalyst and a leading voice in the movement to build resilient, abundant societal systems through applied AI. His work centers on modernizing the essential infrastructures that underpin daily life—from healthcare and energy to defense, industrials, and financial services. He articulated this vision in his 2025 national bestseller, *The Transformation Principles*, which outlines a framework for using technology to strengthen global resilience.

At General Catalyst, Taneja has backed many of the era’s most influential founders, supporting companies such as Anduril, Anthropic, Applied Intuition, Gusto, Snap, and Stripe. He has also co-founded several companies—including



Commure, Hippocratic AI, Livongo, and Transcarent—that reflect his ambition to transform healthcare into a proactive, affordable, and accessible system.

Taneja’s perspective is further shaped by deep technical grounding: He is the author of four books and holds five degrees from MIT in engineering, mathematics, biology, and operations research.

Michael Miebach

PNT’28 / CEO, MASTERCARD

Michael Miebach is the CEO of Mastercard and a member of its board of directors, leading one of the world’s most influential technology and payments companies through a period of rapid digital transformation. Under his leadership, Mastercard is helping shape the future of seamless commerce—powering economies, expanding access, and strengthening the security and intelligence that anchor the global exchange of payments and data.

Over the past decade, Miebach has been central to redefining Mastercard’s strategy, guiding the company’s evolution from a card-centric business to a diversified technology platform. This shift accelerated expansion into real-time payments, open banking, digital identity, and data-driven and cyber-resilience services.



Miebach’s global perspective is shaped by his service on the Business Roundtable, the U.S.–India CEO Forum, and the World Economic Forum’s International Business Council. He also serves on the boards of IBM, the World Resources Institute, and the American Red Cross.

Our Featured Speakers

Dame Emma Walmsley, DBE

PNT'29 / FORMER CEO, GSK
BOARD DIRECTOR, MICROSOFT

Dame Emma Walmsley served as CEO of GSK for nine years, leading one of the world's largest biopharma companies through a period of strategic, performance, and cultural transformation. Under her leadership, GSK reshaped its portfolio, revitalized its R&D engine, and delivered sustained momentum—including 18 consecutive quarters of profitable growth and the successful demerger and public listing of Haleon in 2022. By the end of her tenure, GSK had strengthened its pipeline across respiratory, immunology, oncology, HIV, and infectious diseases.

Walmsley's leadership was defined by clarity, accountability, and a commitment to rigorous debate. She championed a culture where contrarian views, red-team analyses, and premortems were not only welcomed but expected.

Before GSK, Walmsley spent 17 years at L'Oréal across Paris, London, New York, and Shanghai. She serves on the board of Microsoft, and has advised multiple U.K. prime ministers, bringing a global perspective to the intersection of business, innovation, and public health.



“By definition, leadership is about helping others, collectively and individually, to do more together than we can ever do individually.”



“What really motivates and provides satisfaction to people in their careers is the ability to have impact. This is a business of uncertainty. You have to be humble enough to listen to the science and brave enough to act on it.”

Christopher Viehbacher

PNT'18, TRUSTEE, NORTHEASTERN /
PRESIDENT AND CEO, BIOGEN

Christopher Viehbacher is the president and CEO of Biogen, leading the expansion of a pioneering neuroscience company into immunology and rare diseases, backed by a pipeline that has already delivered four first-in-class therapies. Committed to advancing science for the benefit of patients and public health, he has spent more than three decades building and transforming some of the largest pharmaceutical organizations worldwide.

After two decades at GlaxoSmithKline, where he rose to president of its North American pharmaceutical division, he served as global CEO of Sanofi for six years, strengthening and diversifying its R&D pipeline. He later co-founded Gurnet Point Capital, a healthcare investment fund, and has chaired or served on the boards of numerous entrepreneurial biotech companies.

Viehbacher received the Pasteur Foundation Award for outstanding commitment to safeguarding and improving health worldwide, and France's highest civilian honor, the Légion d'Honneur. He is a member of the Board of Fellows of Stanford University School of Medicine and a member of the MIT president's CEO Advisory Board.

EXPERIENCE

Powered by Northeastern

\$1.75

billion fundraising campaign

\$1.37

billion raised since 2018

143K+

total donors

Our Distinguished Speaker and Honoree

Sir Lucian Grainge, CBE

PNT'16, H'17, TRUSTEE, NORTHEASTERN /
CHAIRMAN AND CEO, UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP

Sir Lucian Grainge is one of the most influential executives in modern entertainment and a defining architect of the music industry’s global resurgence. As chairman and CEO of Universal Music Group, he has spent more than four decades shaping the careers of many of the world’s most iconic artists—from ABBA and U2 to Rihanna, Jay-Z, and Elton John—while pioneering new models for how music is created, distributed, and experienced.

Grainge is widely credited with transforming UMG into the most successful company in the history of recorded music.

Entrepreneurship is a Mindset

Sir Lucian Grainge sees disruption as fuel. “The more seismic the changes that come our way,” he has said, “the more energized I become.” It is a philosophy that has defined UMG’s response to every technological shift—and one that has made Grainge one of the most innovative leaders of our time.

His leadership has been defined by a willingness to rethink the fundamentals of the business—championing artist-first development, forging partnerships with emerging technology platforms, and pushing the industry toward innovative revenue models long before they became mainstream. His strategic vision helped lay the foundation for the industry’s return to growth after years of disruption.

Across his career, Grainge has led major global expansions, revitalized legacy labels, and overseen landmark achievements—including UMG becoming the first music company to hold all top 10 spots on the Billboard Hot 100. His leadership has earned him some of the field’s highest honors, from a knighthood by Queen Elizabeth II to Billboard’s first-ever Executive of the Decade.



BUILT TO BUILD

Our Global Platform

“Entrepreneurship is how every field moves forward: in medicine, in technology, in policy, in the arts. At Northeastern, it’s not confined to a single department. It is a defining ethos that runs through everything we do. Our ecosystem connects the classroom to the market, the student to the mentor, and the idea to the investor, across 14 campuses and nearly 200 countries. That global platform is what sets us apart.”

Richard Corps, Director of Entrepreneurship and Strategic Partnerships, Northeastern University London

The London Startup Hub
Home to 30+ external startups and six student ventures, Northeastern University London’s Startup Hub connects founders, students, and industry partners across one of the world’s most dynamic innovation ecosystems.



A Lesson in Leadership

“Tell your truth. Communicate more than you think you need to. Make sure everyone knows what the North Star is.”

Julietta Dexter, PNT’20, Governor, Northeastern University London · CEO, Brand Potential Consulting · Chair, Smart Works



3 Tips for Entrepreneurs

We asked a few leaders in our network for their advice. Here’s what they said.



1. “See around corners and act before problems become unfixable. Successful founders are passionate, they anticipate what’s coming, and they move early.” **Jeff McCarthy, DMSB’77 · Venture Capitalist**



2. “Stay closer to your customer than anyone else in your space. The companies that execute that feedback loop the fastest generally win.”

Rich D’Amore, DMSB’76, Board Chair, Northeastern · Partner, North Bridge Venture Partners



3. “Obsess over the problem, not the product. Only take the entrepreneurial path if you’re truly driven to fix the specific problem your company exists to solve.”

Jeff Clarke, MBA’85, Trustee, Northeastern · CEO, Insurity



MOSAIC: Northeastern’s Network of Builders and Leaders

An alliance of 15 student-led organizations across Northeastern’s campuses—providing founders with the disciplines, resources, and community they need to build ventures from idea to market.

\$900M+

raised by IDEA ventures

2,600+

ventures supported

8,000+

mentorship matches

400+

student leaders in experiential entrepreneurship

15

student-led organizations

Arlington
Boston
Burlington
Charlotte
London
Miami
Nahant
New York City
Oakland
Portland
Seattle
Silicon Valley
Toronto
Vancouver

OUR GLOBAL NETWORK

The world doesn't wait. Neither does Northeastern.
Our campuses, alumni, and employer partners span the cities
where industries transform and ideas scale. That network is in the
room with you this week—and it goes wherever you go.

365K+

alumni living and working in

187 countries

4K+

employer partners

150+

countries where students study and earn experience



WHO YOU’LL MEET

Engage with international and intergenerational thinkers, doers, builders, and innovators united by a belief that experience changes everything.

From day one, Northeastern has pursued ways of learning and discovery that are driven by experience and impact. The people in this room are that belief in action.



Our Alumni

Part of a 365,000-strong network spanning 49 alumni communities and nearly 200 countries, our alumni carry the values of experiential learning and global citizenship into every corner of the world. Among them, you will meet Young Global Leaders representing more than 45 nations, Young Alumni Board Members, and Community Leaders.

Students

Students from colleges and programs across our global network will be attending, including Summer In London students, John Martinson Honors scholars, and the award-winning a cappella group, the Nor’easters.



Innovators and Entrepreneurs

Beyond the founders, judges, and mentors in our Global Venture Forum, you’ll meet Women Who Empower Innovator fellows, judges and awardees, mentors from our Venture Mentoring Network and representatives of our student-led ecosystem of builders and leaders.



Families

We extend a warm welcome to our newest families of the class entering in Fall 2026. Our Family Fellows and parent partners offer support that makes the student experience possible.

Benefactors

Our benefactors are members of the Global Empowerment Society whose generosity directly powers Northeastern’s research, scholarships, entrepreneurship and global experiences.

Partners

Our 4K+ employer partner network includes co-op employers, research affiliates, and collaborators ranging from Fortune 500 companies to startups and nonprofits.



Our Trustees, Emeriti, and Leaders

Board members, emeriti, and senior leaders from across our network, committed to advancing Northeastern’s academic mission and the next generation of global leaders.



STAY CONNECTED. MAKE AN IMPACT.

You’ve experienced the power of this network firsthand. Keep the energy going. Stay connected with the university and with one another. Here are a few ways to do that, and we welcome a conversation about how we can deepen your engagement in a way that’s meaningful to you.

Make a Gift

The Global Experience Fund opens doors to international opportunities that build the kind of global agility no classroom alone can teach. Your support expands access to these experiences for students who need it most.



Invest in Co-op

You get the talent you need. Our students get the experience that makes a difference. If your organization isn’t already an employer partner, let’s change that.

Host Our Community

Alumni communities span 49 cities worldwide. Open your doors for a gathering or conversation and help keep this network strong.

Become a Mentor

Share your experience, open your network, and help the next generation of Northeastern leaders navigate the challenges you’ve already solved.

Stay Connected

Join your regional alumni network, explore giving societies like our Family Fellows program and Global Empowerment Society, or deepen your engagement through volunteer leadership. There’s a place for service and leadership for every member of this community.

Carolyn Jasinski

Assistant Vice President, Leadership Relations

Carolyn and her team are your connection point for all of the above. Reach out to start a conversation about how you can engage in a way that’s right for you. | c.jasinski@northeastern.edu. | [+1.857.407.5535](tel:+18574075535)

WITH GRATEFUL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

GLS is made possible through the generosity of our partners and supporters—companies and families who share our belief in the power of this community and the ideas it puts in motion.



UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP



The Alomran Family

The Chanrai Family

The D’Ippolito Family

The Fernandez Family

The Henkel Family

The Peers Family

Victor and William
Fung Foundation



LONDON

