

FEATURED STORY



GEC at COP28 Dubai: Igniting Young Minds for a Sustainable, Green Future!

The 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, a key global event hosted by the United Arab Emirates, is set as a vital platform for addressing the pressing challenges of climate change. This much-anticipated gathering focuses on fostering worldwide collaboration and concerted efforts towards sustainable development and environmental protection. During this influential assembly, Mr. Edison Yan, the dynamic Executive Director of GEC-ASI, is playing a pivotal role, driving forward the agenda and making waves with his contributions.



The event brought together diverse perspectives to seek effective solutions to the climate crisis and inspire the younger generation to actively participate and contribute to this pressing issue. As one of the distinguished members of the official delegation at COP28, Mr. Yan engaged with experts and scholars in the education sector from around the globe to explore the imperative of global youth and scholars' involvement in researching and taking action against global warming and climate change.





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Engage, Educate, Empower

COP28, marked by its inclusive and diverse participation, provided a unique forum where voices from various cultural backgrounds worldwide harmonized in a collective effort to address climate challenges. Inspired by insightful speeches and discussions, and rich experiences visiting various pavilions such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) pavilion, we are now more resolute than ever in developing green skills and promoting dual carbon education. Our overarching goal is to instill environmental literacy in young minds, contributing wisdom and strength to foster a sustainable and green future.



Unite, Act, Deliver

Mr. Yan noted that a sustainable future hinges on embracing green education, recognizing the pivotal role of youth participation and insights in shaping the world and addressing the climate crisis. "GEC is dedicated to fortifying its educational mission, and continually cultivating a global perspective and fostering sustainable development awareness among the youth is our commitment. We aim not only to educate but also to support them into future leaders and catalysts for transformative change," he highlighted at COP28.



Nurturing a new generation prepared to address the challenges of climate change has consistently been GEC Academy's ongoing commitment. As the driving force behind this mission, we are ready to assume a central role in providing students with the knowledge and skills necessary for a sustainable and green future.



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Inaugural International Research and Academic Exploration Forum in Southeast China, alongside GEC Academy's Regional Educational Exchange Gala



On November 23rd, the Inaugural International Research and Academic Exploration Forum in Southeast China, in conjunction with GEC Academy's Regional Educational Exchange Gala, successfully concluded in Xiamen, Fujian. Co-hosted by GEC Academy, the British Council, and US NEWS, and co-sponsored by the International EPQ Learning Center and Choice Education Group, the event garnered support from the Shanghai Jiao Tong University - GEC Academy Center of Innovative Design for Interdisciplinary Studies, TopSchools, and the OxfordAQA International Examination Bureau. With a robust attendance of over 200 participants, including educators from international schools and institutions, representatives from international examination bodies, and frontline experts in international education, the forum provided a dynamic platform to delve into global education trends, engage in discussions about talent development, and international education in Southeast China.



Mr. Meijin Guo, Vice President and Southern Region Director of GEC Academy, delivering an opening address

In his opening address, Mr. Guo eloquently anchored his speech in the indomitable spirit found in traditional Chinese myths - a spirit characterized by an unwavering resolve in the face of adversity and a bold readiness to confront challenges. Against the backdrop of a post-pandemic economic resurgence, Mr. Guo called upon industry peers to unite in their efforts, emphasizing the collective responsibility to contribute to the dynamic growth of the international education sector.



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Mr. Tang went on to underscore the extraordinary transformation witnessed in Xiamen's international education scene over the last decade. Foreseeing a rejuvenation of industry benchmarks and resources in the post-pandemic era, Mr. Tang articulated his belief that this Xiamen forum would play a pivotal role as a catalyst for Southeast China's international education, fostering meaningful exchanges and collaborations among the distinguished participants.



During his keynote address, Mr. Yan delved into the theme of Research Empowering International Talent Development, Enhancing Competitiveness in Study Abroad, showcasing GEC Academy's profound expertise in project-based and research-oriented learning. Reflecting on his personal educational journey, Mr. Yan underscored GEC's dedication to ensuring equitable access to educational resources and advancing the internationalization of scientific and technological talent. "The blurring of disciplinary boundaries and the virtualization of campuses are reshaping trends in the admission of international talents by prestigious overseas institutions," highlighted by Mr. Yan, "Through meticulously designed research-oriented programs, GEC aims to shift students' learning from passive to proactive, empowering them in their pursuit of admission to renowned institutions. Our central focus remains on nurturing genuinely forward-thinking, application-driven talents that seamlessly align with the evolving global landscape."



Jingwei Yu, the Director of Business Development for the British Council examination services in China explaining Trust and Connect

Mr. Yu centered his keynote speech on the pivotal concepts of Trust and Connect. He articulated his vision for international schools and institutions globally to cultivate trust by incorporating the IELTS examination into scenarios like student admissions testing and English proficiency assessments.



the Value of Rankings for Choosing Majors and Universities

Conducting a meticulous examination of the shifts in this year's U.S. university rankings, Mr. Wang provided a nuanced perspective on students' decision-making concerning both their choice of universities and fields of study. He underscored the significance of not fixating solely on rankings when making these decisions, advocating for a comprehensive consideration of the university's culture and its capacity to offer students a diverse array of opportunities and resources.



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The following two roundtable sessions brought together distinguished guests to explore the vital role of international education in amplifying students' soft skills and competitiveness during the pandemic. Discussions also delved into perspectives on academic pressures and the lying flat phenomenon, with a strong emphasis on defining and nurturing soft skills, including cross-cultural understanding. The two roundtable sessions also underscored the necessity for clear goals in academic competitiveness and advocated for collaborative planning between parents and students. Additionally, the importance of supporting the mental health of students throughout their developmental journey was a key highlight.



Dr. David Tidswell, the Foreign Principal of Fuzhou Rongqiao Sino-Canadian School delivering closing remarks

In the closing session, Dr. Tidswell delivered remarks on the theme Beyond Scores: Unleashing Students' Potential in University Applications. He emphasized, "As educators, we hold a significant responsibility for the development of our students. Given the rapid and sustained growth in international education, it is crucial for us to fully tap into students' potential and guide them toward broader cultural exposure."

Moving ahead, GEC Academy is committed to fostering close collaboration with peers in the international education sector. We will work collaboratively to contribute to the cultivation of innovative global talents and the advancement of high-quality education and to play a significant role in the thriving development of international education.



FEATURED STORY

Strategic Cooperation Agreement Signing Ceremony: Management Committee of Xuzhou Economic and Technological Development Zone Partners with GEC Academy



Mr. Gang Hou, Vice Director of GEC-ASI, and Mr. Zhouhua Shi, Deputy Director of Sino-German Innovation Industrial Park (Xuzhou), signing the strategic cooperation agreement

On November 26th, 2023, a pivotal moment unfolded in Xuzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, as the Management Committee of Xuzhou Economic and Technological Development Zone and GEC Academy came together for a strategic partnership signing ceremony. This collaboration is geared towards establishing a vibrant platform that encourages seamless collaboration among industries, universities, and research institutes. For GEC Academy, this marks a significant milestone, highlighting our commitment to integrating talent, innovation, and industry chains, and holding immense importance in seamlessly bringing them together.



Mr. Yinghua Mo delivering a speech at the signing ceremony

Mr. Sheng Yan delivering a speech at the signing ceremony



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Mr. Yinghua Mo, Vice Director of the Management Committee of Xuzhou Economic and Technological Development Zone, emphasized that this collaboration demonstrates the Zone's unwavering commitment to fostering industry-academia-research integration and accelerating the development of a modern industrial park. This initiative also plays a pivotal role in propelling Xuzhou towards its goal of becoming a thriving innovation hub, aligning seamlessly with the city's vision of promoting high-quality education and creating a "new hub" for innovative talents. "We are steadfast in our dedication to treating entrepreneurs as valued partners, prioritizing their interests, and fostering enterprise growth by providing an optimal business environment," he added.

Mr. Sheng Yan, Executive Director of GEC-ASI, highlighted the pivotal role of GEC in forging a new regional development landscape and advancing the holistic development of industries, universities, and research institutes. He underscored that this collaboration represents a key initiative for GEC Academy to expand its footprint within the Huaihai Economic Zone. According to Mr. Yan, "GEC Academy is committed to promoting the commercialization and application of achievements by establishing a demand-driven, technology-supported, market-guided, and project-propelled research and development system." The agreement also involves creating communication channels to enhance service connections, and strengthening talent support for industries, universities, and research institutes.



Mr. Gang Hou delivering a speech at the signing ceremony

Mr. Gang Hou, Vice Director of GEC-ASI, delivered a keynote speech on Constructing the Industry-Academia-Research Cooperation Platform. During his address, Mr. Hou offered a comprehensive overview of GEC Academy's notable breakthroughs and achievements in industry-academia-research cooperation in 2023. highlighted the GEC's commitment to He leveraging international innovation platforms, talent teams. cooperation projects, and accomplishments consulting, to provide intellectual support, and international resources to higher education institutions and industry enterprises.

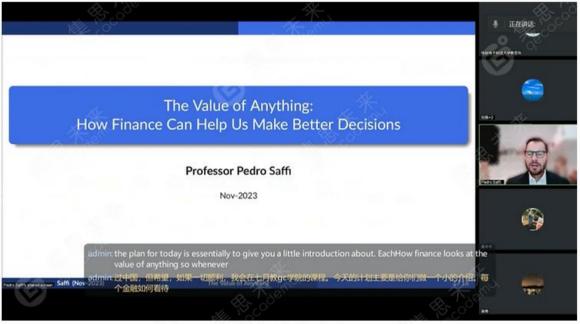
With a shared commitment to deeply integrate into the global scientific and technological innovation chain and collaboratively establish talent centers, GEC Academy remains dedicated to enhancing the quality of industry-academia-research cooperation. The ongoing efforts of both Xuzhou Economic and Technological Development Zone and GEC are geared towards propelling the effective implementation of the industry-academia-research cooperation platform, paving the way for a mutually beneficial future. Together, these initiatives underscore a collective dedication to advancing innovation and fostering a dynamic synergy for sustained progress and growth.



The Last GEC Global Top Scientific Forum in 2023: Academic Open Lecture Explores Value Evaluation and Decision Optimization

On November 21st, GEC Academy successfully concluded its last 2023 Global Top Scientists Forum delivered by Professor Pedro Saffi on "The Value of Anything: How Finance Can Help Us Make Better Decisions". The illuminating online open lecture shed light on the assessment of value from a financial perspective, providing a nuanced examination of the costs and benefits inherent in each of our choices. It facilitates a more profound scrutiny of the underlying financial considerations, thereby empowering individuals to make decisions that are judicious and wellinformed.

As Professor of Financial Economics and Director of Master of Finance Degree at Cambridge Judge Business School, Professor Saffi's previous teaching experience includes courses for MBA, EMBA, MPhil and Executive Education students at Cambridge Judge Business School, IESE, London Business School, etc. His research interests include security lending markets, short selling, liquidity risk, and how differences of beliefs affect trading volume. His consulting experience is centered on valuation, including work as an expert to international arbitration courts, and the analysis of pharmaceutical firms' value. He has also presented his work in the most prestigious academic conferences and contributed with articles to popular press, like *the Journal of Finance, the Review of Financial Studies, Management Science*, and the *JFQA*.

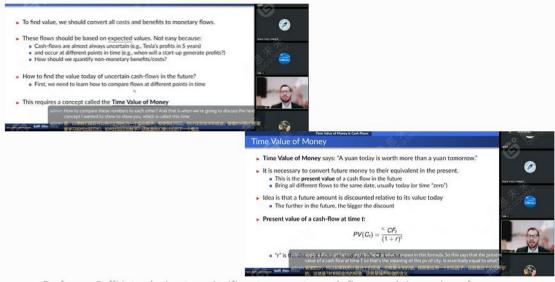


Professor Saffi introducing lecture overview

The main topic of the lecture was value evaluation and decision optimization. Professor Saffi placed particular emphasis on the notion that the value of anything is a function of the future benefits that making this decision will bring. He posited that the value of a choice is not solely contingent upon its monetary worth, but also encompasses a multitude of non-monetary factors that yield tangible advantages.

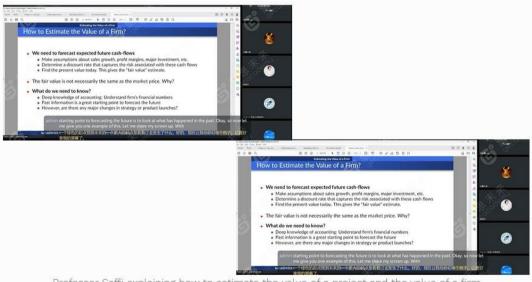
While talking about how to evaluate the worth of our choices and make well-informed decisions, Professor Saffi provided insights into two pivotal concepts during the lecture: cash flows and the time value of money. To quantify value, it is imperative to convert all costs and benefits to monetary flows. He underscored the dynamic nature of money's value over time, necessitating the conversion of future money into its equivalent in the present.





Professor Saffi introducing two significant concepts: cash flows and time value of money

Professor Saffi then extensively explored the practical application of cash flows and the time value of money in evaluating the value of projects and firms. Regarding the topic about how to estimate the value of a firm, Professor Saffi used Tencent, one of the largest internet companies in China, as an example to illustrate his point. He held that it is necessary to forecast expected future cash flows of the company and assess the level of risk associated with cash flows, which requires a solid understanding of accounting, a thorough examination of the company's historical data, and an assessment of any changes in strategy or product launches.



Professor Saffi explaining how to estimate the value of a project and the value of a firm

The open lecture concluded with students actively engaged in thought-provoking and insightful discussions with Professor Saffi during the Q&A session. Delving into topics like discount rate calculations, quantifying costs and benefits, and global economic development, the discourse was both insightful and engaging. Professor Saffi underscored the paramount importance of a comprehensive understanding of financial theories in estimating the value of projects, firms and various decision-making process. Within the realms of finance and economics, he stressed that genuine success is often attained by those who can integrate art and science.

Global Top Scientists Forum is an initiative to create an interactive platform for global scientists and students to exchange ideas. We are delighted to announce that GEC Academy will continue to host Global Top Scientists Forum series on a monthly basis in the upcoming year. Please stay tuned and remain engaged as we embark on a journey of intellectual exploration and discovery. GEC Academy is very pleased to have our faculty bring insights on a wide range of topics across diverse fields. For those who might be interested in working with GEC, please feel free to contact our outreach specialist, Katrina, at katrina.wang@gecacademy.com. GEC faculty who are interested in giving a speech at the next Global Top Scientists Forum should contact their academic manager.



RSVP: Invitation to 2023 Annual Meeting

Invitation to 2023 Annual Meeting

For our December Faculty Seminar (December 27th, Wednesday, 22:00-23:00, Beijing Time),

The year 2023 holds unique significance for GEC Academy as we embark on a journey that marks a pivotal moment in GEC's history. After a hiatus of three years due to the challenges posed by the global pandemic, we successfully ventured to North America to reconnect with some of our friends and partners. Additionally, we warmly welcomed dedicated faculty members who chose to spend their summer break and upcoming winter vacation in China, actively engaging in GEC onsite research programs. And we would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your invaluable contributions and your steadfast support in shaping the success of every GEC's endeavors.

During this annual meeting, we would like to reflect on the achievements and successes that have defined GEC Academy over the past months.

The meeting agenda is as follows:

- Opening and Welcome
- Academic Management Team sharing
- Faculty Outreach Team sharing
- University Higher Education Team sharing
- Professor Representatives sharing
- Q&A
- Lucky draw

This year's Lucky Draw will bring a touch of anticipation and excitement. We're thrilled to announce that the First Prize winner will receive a cash reward, while the Second and Third Prize winners will each have the opportunity to enjoy a gift card.

Your feedback and suggestions play a crucial role in shaping the path forward for GEC Academy. Thanks for sparing your time to read the message and feel free to let us know if more info is needed.

<u>Here</u> is a tool for time zone converting.

Join Zoom Meeting <u>https://zoom.us/j/85859103401</u> Meeting ID: 858 5910 3401 Passcode: GEC123

For participants, please find **<u>RSVP</u>** here!

DEVELOP. GROW. SUCCEED.



Faculty Work Gallery

This month we introduced a **paper** from **Professor Dénes Szücs**. If you are interested in showcasing your research, grants, book releases, conference presentations, or any work you deem valuable and interesting to share, please feel free to contact us.

Maths Anxiety and Subjective Perception of Control, Value and Success Expectancy in Mathematics

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Research articles

Maths anxiety and subjective perception of control, value and success expectancy in mathematics



Denes Szucs ⊠ and Enrico Toffalini Published: **29 November 2023** | https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.231000

Professor Dénes Szücs, Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience and Psychology, Fellow in Darwin College, University of Cambridge

Abstract

Mathematics anxiety (MA) is an academic anxiety related to doing, learning and testing mathematics. MA can negatively affect mathematics performance, motivation and maths-heavy science and technology-related career choices. Previous data suggest that subjective perceptions and interpretations of students are key in the genesis of MA. Here, based on expectancy-value and control-value theory, we aimed to identify potential, theoretically based subjective factors probably key to understanding MA. We analysed data from 151 745 fifteen-year-old children from 65 'countries and economies' from the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2012 dataset. Subjective selfperceptions had a stronger relationship with MA than maths achievement. We found that higher MA was associated with lower perceived control over maths activities and lower subjective expectation of success. Surprisingly, children with higher subjective valuation of maths had higher MA for similar levels of subjective control and success expectancy in maths. Results offer an improved understanding of potential antecedents of MA and suggest that effective interventions could be based on gradual confidence building in maths. These could primarily draw on a deeper understanding of the subject improving subjective success expectancy and feeling of control over maths activities. Cultural variation in findings is discussed.

Please click **<u>HERE</u>** to read the full paper.



GEC CULTURE

What's in iHUB swag collection? Sneak Peek into the Coolest iHUB Swag for Students!





Click **HERE** to watch the full video on YouTube!



Introducing New Faces

We're pleased to welcome 2 new faces to the GEC team - Yue & Jie!



Yue ZHANG yue.zhang2@gecacademy.cn

01 Educational background:

Bachelor of Art in Digital Media, Hebei University of Media

02 What are your current duties?

I currently hold the role of Video Producer within the GEC Academic Brand Team. My main gig involves brainstorming and crafting video content and styles tailored to project needs and our audience. It's all about having a keen eye for visuals, thinking outside the box, and rocking the tools of the trade. Being patient and laser-focused on detail is key to making sure each video hits the mark, serving up what users crave and grabbing their attention.

03 What made you choose GEC Academy?

I jumped on board with GEC because its vibe, the chances it dishes out for personal growth, and the pulse-pounding projects it dives into had me hooked. I'm all about thriving in a workplace that's innovative, wide open, and welcoming, where I can lay down my skills and grow alongside a crew who gets it. GEC goes big on serving up learning and development goods for its crew, which is my ticket to constant improvement and becoming a better pro. I'm itching to dive into a mix of wild and challenging projects, not just unlocking my potential but also chipping in for the team, scoring that sweet feeling of accomplishment.

04 What are your specialisms and interests?

I'm a go-getter who digs exploring all sorts of entertainment to spice up my days. Movies are my jam—they whisk you away to different worlds and lay down life experiences on the table. Music is another love of mine, the secret sauce that flavors life, tweaking my emotions and bringing the chill. Beyond that, I'm hooked on riding the internet waves, using it to scope out cool stuff from across the globe and keep my knowledge game on point.



Introducing New Faces

We're pleased to welcome 2 new faces to the GEC team - Yue & Jie!

01 Educational background:

Double Master's Degree in

- (1) Russian Language and Literature, Beijing International Studies University,
- (2) Journalism, St. Petersburg State University.

02 What are your current duties?

I am currently serving as a Global Competence Development Project Specialist at GEC-Advanced Studies Institute. In this role, my primary responsibilities involve research and development in the field of education. This encompasses tasks such as course development for the Global Competence Development (GCD) project, collaboration with teaching faculty both domestically and internationally, facilitation of live Q&A sessions for online courses, and overseeing the operational aspects of workshops..



Jie JIAO (Ramona) jie.jiao@gecacademy.cn

03 What made you choose GEC Academy?

GEC Academy stands out as a team full of innovation and vitality. Having previously worked in state-owned enterprises with a more traditional work environment, I've eagerly anticipated the opportunity to collaborate with a dynamic and youthful team like GEC Academy. I'm confident that within GEC, one can harness the company's resources and opportunities to consistently highlight individual strengths, refine professional skills, and actively contribute to the overall success of the organization.

04 What are your specialisms and interests?

I have an avid interest in foreign languages, with Russian as my major and English as my second foreign language. During my free time, I have self-studied Korean and Arabic. Delving into books in their original languages is a personal joy, and my passions extend to photography, videography, gastronomy, hiking, and travel. A devoted dog lover, I share my home with a Pembroke Welsh Corgi who brings immense joy and companionship to my life!

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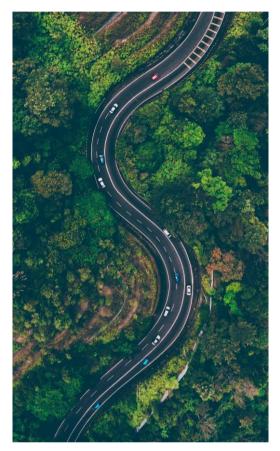


AMAZING WORK FROM GEC STUDENTS

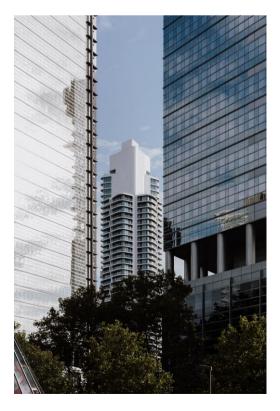
Each month, GEC will introduce some of our exceptional students' work in a specific research area to our audiences. This month we selected two articles from our previous students in the field of **Civil Engineering.**

On the experiment and design of the Tachi-Miura polyhedron's radial load-bearing capacity

Recent research has yet to note the structural performance of the radial direction. This paper experimentally verified the factors influencing the TMP's radial load-bearing capacity and designed the new intermediate layer patterns for the radial extension. The methodology first assumed the axial motion of TMP as the approaching among sections. Based on the analysis, the relationship among the parameters was revealed according to the experiments, which marked the TMP as a high-performance structure. The results proved the positive correlation between the axial pre-compression and the radial load-bearing capacity where the folding angle has reached the value range of the self-locking state.



Click **<u>HERE</u>** to read the full text!



Structural Design and Seismic Analysis of Connecting Corridors in High-rise Buildings

With the development of society, the demand for highrise buildings has increased remarkably for some reasons. Meanwhile, connected corridor structure become a popular design on high-rise buildings which allows different towers to be linked. Due to the complexity of the structure system, it is necessary to indicate the existing issues and the approaches to deal with them or reduce the effect..

Click **HERE** to read the full text!



Join Us at GEC Technical Sponsorship Conferences: Open Calling for Committee Members & Speakers



Since 2023, GEC Academy has taken immense pride in its role as a technical sponsor for a diverse array of international academic conferences, with a vision entailing both promoting interdisciplinary cooperation and nurturing an inclusive, collaborative educational environment that extends its benefits beyond the scientific community to society at large. Hence, we are enthusiastic about extending invitations to more of our esteemed GEC Faculty members and Teaching Fellows, encouraging your active involvement as committee members or innovative speakers and storytellers, who are passionate about sharing innovative ideas with the brightest minds, providing enriching insights, offering innovative experiences, and sharing real-world examples, among other valuable contributions to GEC technical sponsorship conferences.

We are thrilled to hear from our GEC faculty members, teaching fellows, teaching assistants (PhD holders), and scholars whose expertise aligns with conference themes and interdisciplinary intersections below. Please feel free to send your CVs, resumes, bibliographies, or personal links to the specific conference contact email for detailed information. For experts and scholars seeking technical sponsorship, who are passionate about initiating international conferences, and wish to contribute to global academic exchange, please do not hesitate to contact us at <u>conference@gecacademy.com</u>.

Upcoming Conferences

For December and January, we have one technical sponsorship conference covering a wide range of subjects, including Computer Science, Mechatronics and more.

- January 26-28th, 2024, Shanghai, China The International Conference on Computer Science and Mechatronics (ICCSM 2024)
- ICCSM 2024 will provide an insight into the unique world stemming from the interaction between the fields of computer science and mechatronics, as well as an international technical forum for experts from industry and academia to exchange ideas and present results of ongoing research in the areas of computer science and mechatronics. It focuses on high-quality presentations and papers that address contemporary issues on fundamental research leading to new methods, or adaptation of existing methods for new applications related to the topics of computer technology and mechatronics. It will feature keynote speeches given by renowned scholars, and oral/poster presentations with broad coverage and popular topics.

Please click **<u>HERE</u>** to explore these exciting upcoming events!



WHAT PROGRAMS DOES GEC OFFER IN DECEMBER 2023 SEMESTER?

In December, GEC launches a total of 23 online research programs in the areas of Finance, Business, Computer Science, Digital Media, Electrical Enginnering, Quantum Physics and so on. This month, GEC also sets up 2 customized lectures for Southwestern University of Finance and Economics and Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. We will continue to gather students, faculty, and staff for an unrivaled academic experience.

> The tables <u>GEC 2023 December Program List,</u> <u>GEC Customized Lectures for Universities in December 2023</u>

show detailed information about the programs that GEC launches in December.

Please click **<u>HERE</u>** to find previous program/course offerings.

GEC 2023 Annual Survey

GEC strives to continually improve your working experience with GEC Academy and values your feedback sincerely. Therefore, we would really appreciate it if you could spare 5 minutes to finish the following survey. Every suggestion or comment from you matters a lot to us. Thank you in advance!

For your convenience, please click **HERE** to fill out the survey link.

GEC Academy

EMAIL: <u>academic@gecacademy.com</u> / <u>publicity@gecacademy.com</u> HEADQUARTER: Floor 7, Chaowai Soho Building D, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China

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