



Extended Bio

Professor Dr. Ger Graus OBE is a renowned figure in the field of education. He was the first Global Director of Education at KidZania, and, before that, the founding CEO of the Children's University.

KidZania, where children aged 4 to 14 can experience the world of work through role-play, is designed to inspire and empower: "from inspiration to aspiration." Since its inception in 1999 in Mexico City, KidZania has been in 25 cities on 5 continents with plans for further developments in 20 locations, including the USA, Canada, China, and South Africa.

Professor Graus has been and is at the heart of innovation and project development such as the 'Global Barometer of Children's Aspirations' concept; 'KidZania World Online'; 'Individual Pupil Participation Profiles'; 'KidZtalks'; 'KidZania Careers Weeks'; education 'Think-Tanks'; 'Ambassador Schools', and independent evaluations by, amongst others the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, Cass Business School, Havas Helia - all United Kingdom; Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico; and the Pinsky Centre as part of the National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia. Based on these evaluations' findings, Professor Graus is now advocating a 'Futures Awareness' campaign in partnership with the world of work to introduce careers education into the primary school phase globally. After all, as he frequently reminds us: "Children can only aspire to what they know exists." Ahead of his global role, Professor Graus started at KidZania London in 2014. He was responsible for developing the United Kingdom-wide education strategy, including partnerships with schools, Higher Education, and commercial and third-sector learning partners.

Before this, in 2007, he became the founding Chief Executive of the Children's University. Under his leadership, the Children's University became a multiple-award winning international charity providing 5 to 14-year-olds with exciting and innovative learning opportunities outside school hours, thus significantly contributing to the social mobility agenda, as verified by a series of evaluations by the University of Cambridge. The Children's University's global reach extends to Australia, New Zealand, China, Malaysia, Singapore, and the Middle East.

Professor Graus, a Board Director at Hello Genius, USA, chairs the Advisory Boards at Kabuni, United Kingdom, and Twin Science & Robotics, Turkey, and is a Global Adviser to Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), India, and to Bett Show, United Kingdom. He also advises several start-ups, including The Insights Family, United Kingdom; Lets Localise, United Kingdom; My Global Bridge, United Kingdom; WeWalk, Turkey; CEO Kids, Malaysia; and Verofax, United Arab Emirates.

Professor Graus moved to the United Kingdom in 1983 when he began teaching at Taverham High School in Norwich. He next moved on to a management position at Winifred Holtby School in Hull. Subsequently, he became Education Adviser for Manchester City Council, introducing Modern Foreign Languages and European school partnerships and projects into the primary school phase, and, later, Senior Inspector for Salford City Council, as well as an Inspector for the Office for



Standards in Education (Ofsted). After that, he became Director of the two Wythenshawe Education Action Zones based in south Manchester, leading improvements in quality and standards across 29 schools.

Ger Graus was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Staffordshire University, United Kingdom, in 2011 and was made an Adjunct Fellow by the University of Adelaide, Australia, in 2013. In 2018, he was granted the Education Leadership Award by the World Education Congress in Mumbai, India. In 2018, he was appointed Academic Leader at the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey in Mexico. In 2019, Dr. Graus was invited to become a Visiting Professor and Adjunct Fellow at the National Research University Higher School of Economics in Moscow, Russia. He is also a Guest Lecturer at the Moscow School of Management, Skolkovo. In 2022, Dr. Graus was granted the award of Iconic Leader Creating A Better World For All by the Women Economic Forum (WEF). In 2023, he was made a Companion of the Harry Volker Genootschap in the Netherlands.

In the 2014 Queen's Birthday Honours List, Ger Graus was made an Honorary Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to children.

Professor Graus now works with and advises organizations globally on the learning agenda in its widest sense, including the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); WISE as part of the Qatar Foundation; the United Kingdom's Information Commissioner's Office; Ashoka; the Oman Society for Educational Technology; the Instituto Ayrton Senna, Brazil; the Polytech Museum Moscow; Young Guru Academy (YGA), Turkey; the Centre for Educational Technology (CET), Israel; as well as the business world, including in the United Kingdom the British Educational Suppliers Association (BESA), the Education Company, Dorling Kindersley, Atlantic Productions; Independent Films, USA.

Professor Graus is a member of the Bett Global Education Council, DIDAC India's Advisory Board; chairs the Beaconhouse School System's Education Advisory Board, Pakistan; is a member of Junior Achievement Worldwide's Global Council; advises the Fondazione Reggio Children, Italy; and the Independent Schools Partnership (ISP), and has been invited by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai to help shape the future of education in Dubai as a member of the Dubai Future Councils. In 2022, Prof Graus was a Juror for the British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA) in the Children & Young People category. He is also an Adviser to the Children's Media Conference and Foundation, UK.

Professor Graus regularly contributes to TES Global and for TommorrrowsChild.TV. In 2020-2021, he hosted a Pearson online seminar series, '#TheNewNormal,' and had a column, 'Becoming Me,' in The Week Junior. He is also a frequent keynote speaker at some of the world's leading education conferences, including Bett London, Asia, Brazil, LatAm, and the Middle East; GESS Turkey, Indonesia, and Middle East; DIDAC, India, CIIE, Mexico; EdCrunch, Russia; Innovate, USA; LEAP and GTEL, Saudi Arabia; TEDx, USA; YGA, Turkey, the Women's Economic Forum, Costa Rica; the Israel EdTech Week; and the Council on Educational Standards (CESA), USA.



In his book 'Natural Born Learners,' author Alex Beard says of Professor Graus: "In learning terms, Ger Graus is Jean-Jacques Rousseau meets Willy Wonka."

Shorted Bio

Professor Dr. Ger Graus OBE is a renowned figure in the field of education. He was the first Global Director of Education at KidZania and, before that, the founding CEO of the Children's University. In 2019, Ger was invited to become a Visiting Professor at the National Research University in Moscow, Russia. He is a Board Director at Hello Genius, USA, chairs the Advisory Boards at Kabuni, UK, and Twin Science, Turkey, and globally advises Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), India, and Bett Show, United Kingdom. He is also an Adviser for several start-ups, including CEO Kids, Malaysia; The Insights Family, UK; Lets Localise, United Kingdom; My Global Bridge, United Kingdom; WeWalk, Turkey; and Verofax, UAE.

Ger Graus moved to the United Kingdom in 1983, where he began his teaching career at Taverham High School, Norwich, and then moved to Winifred Holtby School, Hull, as Head of the Modern Foreign Languages Faculty. He later became an Education Adviser, a Senior Inspector, and a Director of Education.

Dr. Graus is a member of Bett's Global Education Council, DIDAC India's Advisory Board, Junior Achievement's Worldwide Global Council, chairs the Beaconhouse School System's Advisory Board, Pakistan, advises the Fondazione Reggio Children, Italy, and YGA, Turkey, and has been invited to help shape the future of education in Dubai as a member of the Dubai Future Councils. In 2022, Dr. Graus was a Juror for the British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA) in the Children & Young People category. He is also an Adviser to the Children's Media Conference and Foundation, UK.

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Shortest Bio

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Introduction

Prof Dr. Ger Graus OBE, an iconic figure in the field of education, will be joining us at [*title of your conference*].

A renowned educational innovation and community engagement expert, he was the first Global Director of Education at the world-famous children's entertainment-education company, KidZania, and the founding CEO of the Children's University.

He has been invited to help shape the future of education as a member of several Educational Councils. In 2022, Dr. Graus became a Juror for the British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA) in the Children & Young People category.

In 2014 Ger was made an Honorary Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to children. In his book 'Natural Born Learners,' Alex Beard says: "In learning terms, Ger Graus is Jean-Jacques Rousseau meets Willy Wonka."

Please welcome Prof Dr. Ger Graus.