



International Centre  
of Excellence in  
**Tourism and Hospitality  
Education (THE-ICE)**

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**THE-ICE 12<sup>th</sup> IPoE Forum 2018**

**Benchmarking Roundtable Series (BRS) XIII Workshop**

### **Dr Craig Thompson**

**Incoming Chief Executive Officer, THE-ICE**



Dr Craig Thompson was born in England and studied humanities at undergraduate level in Bristol. He worked in the tourism industry in a number of countries in Europe before studying for a masters degree in Tourism Management at the University of Strathclyde, in Glasgow. Following a period in the public sector, as the Tourism Development Officer for Wiltshire, Craig took his first lecturing role in the University of Derby. Whilst at Derby he commenced a PhD, also through the University of Strathclyde, focused on entrepreneurship in the hospitality sector, in The Gambia, West Africa, which he completed in 2000.

He moved to New Zealand in the mid 1990s to develop and manage the country's first specialist degree in Tourism Management. Another opportunity then took him to Switzerland, where he became the Academic Director of the Swiss Education Group, the country's largest provider of hospitality education. It was then back to Scotland to head an industry-led project to create a private hotel school. His final move (to date) has seen Craig move to The Netherlands, to take on the role of Head of Stenden Hotel Management School, the largest hotel school in Europe, at NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences. So, after several mountainous countries, Craig is enjoying life (and cycling) with his wife and two children in much flatter environment!

Craig is a Fellow of the Institute of Hospitality and the Higher Education Academy, and is a member of editorial board for the journal of Research in Hospitality Management and Journal of Tourism Futures. Craig was elected as Director on THE-ICE Board in November 2015, appropriately while NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences hosted THE-ICE IPoE (International Panel of Experts) Forum, the first time the event had been held in Europe.