

Marc-Olivier COPPENS

Marc-Olivier COPPENS is Ramsay Memorial Professor in Chemical Engineering at University College London (UCL) since 2012, after professorships at Rensselaer (USA, 2006-2012) and TU Delft (Netherlands, 1998-2006). He has been Vice-Dean (Interdisciplinarity, Innovation) for UCL Engineering (2021-2024), after serving as Head of Department of Chemical Engineering (2012-2020). He directs the Centre for Nature-Inspired Engineering (UCL CNIE), founded through an EPSRC “Frontier Engineering” Award in 2013. He received his MSc (1993) and PhD (1996) in Chemical Engineering from Ghent University (Belgium) and was a research fellow in Mathematics at Yale and in Chemical Engineering at UC Berkeley (USA). He is recognised for pioneering nature-inspired chemical engineering (NICE) over > 25 years and developing a systematic nature-inspired solution methodology to accelerate innovation for sustainable development, particularly through process intensification.

He is Fellow of the Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE), the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), Corresponding Member of the Saxon Academy of Sciences in Germany, Qiushi Professor at Zhejiang University in China, and served as Scientific Council Member for IFP Energies nouvelles in France. He has published > 200 journal publications, and serves on advisory and editorial boards, including Editor-in-Chief of *Chemical Engineering & Processing: Process Intensification* and the Advisory Boards of *RSC Molecular Systems Design & Engineering*, *Powder Technology*, and *IOP Sustainability Science & Technology*.

Since 2015, NICE has also been the subject of a unique, award-winning course, involving student teams solving a challenge using the NIS methodology. Some of the CNIE’s products have been licensed and commercialised (toothpaste, 2026), others on the International Space Station (2021-2) or featured at the Venice Biennale (2021). The CNIE is gender-balanced, and equality, diversity and inclusion are embedded as driving principles, as Coppens believe them to be essential not only for fairness and a pleasant and empowering working environment, but for creativity and success.