



Technician Partnership Conference 2024

Technicians Stronger Together

Event Programme

26 June 2024:
9am – 4pm



Venue: Newcastle University,
Frederick Douglass Centre, Helix Site

[Click to Book Now](#)



Virtual Exhibition Call

As part of the Technical Partnership Conference 2024, we are planning a virtual exhibition showcasing and celebrating the work of technicians in creative practices. The exhibition will be screened throughout the conference. We seek video, sound or photo submissions from Technicians from Arts and Culture disciplines such as fine art, architecture, fashion, makers, fabrication, sound, games and other creative practices.

We want to receive submissions from people who have an active creative practice in any art form at any stage of their career. Submissions should highlight the work of the technician that relates to their technical role.

This year's conference is focused on knowledge and sharing practical expertise on the themes of communication, wellbeing, careers, and sustainability. It is taking place on Wednesday 26 June 2024 at Newcastle University's Frederick Douglass Centre.



The Submissions can be:

- A short video (Specifications: file format .mov .mp4, maximum of two minutes long, HD 1080p, 1GB file size maximum). Please download and use the 'title example' at the QR code and render this at the start of your video for a length of 15 seconds. This will replace any existing title sequence in you video.
- Up to 6 images (Specification: 1920x1080).
- Audio files (Specification: .MP3 or .WAV, maximum length of 2 minutes).



Scan for title slide template or [click here](#)

Deadline for Submissions: 15 May 2024

Please Submit To:

clive2wright@northumbria.ac.uk with CC to karen.hendrix@newcastle.ac.uk and kenny.macrae@northumbria.ac.uk with the subject line: **TPC 2024 Techsibition**

*Please include your Name, Job Title, and Institution.

Newcastle University will retain your data and images for one calendar year after the conference. We will not pass your details or images to anyone outside of the event or organising teams.



Speaker Biographies



Alex Laude
Director of Faculty Facilities
Newcastle University

Alex has a background and over 13 years of experience of managing an advanced microscopy core facility. He began his journey into grant writing by securing modest internal funds for summer studentships and method development in his facility. He has since honed his grant skills through co-writing collaborative high-value multi-user equipment grant focused on technology and methodology. He now leads such grants.

[Email](#)



Hannah Roberts
Head Coach & Trainer
Breakthrough Talent & Skills Limited

As founder of Intentional Careers™, author of Amazon #1 bestseller Intentional Careers for STEM Women and host of a top 5% global podcast, Women in STEM Career & Confidence, Dr Hannah Roberts is an award-winning coach on a mission to eradicate inequity in the workplace by guiding professionals to design careers for fulfilment with a mindset for leadership to build progressive workplace cultures where every individual feels valued. Hannah is uniquely positioned as a scientist, mum of three with a background in corporate and academia. She has been a certified coach since 2019 and member of the Forbes Coaches Council since 2022.

[Email](#), [Linkedin](#), [X \(Twitter\)](#)



Gwen Averley
Senior Research Funding Development Officer
Newcastle University

Gwen Averley, the Research Funding Development Manager for the Medical Faculty at Newcastle University, has been actively involved in supporting grant applications since 2003. Throughout her tenure, she has witnessed significant changes in the funding landscape and the evolving requirements for writing grant applications. Dr. Averley has gained valuable insights from her research technology professional peers, particularly in enhancing mid-range equipment applications. As funders expand eligibility criteria for grant participation, she is committed to disseminating the application expertise she has acquired to all research staff across various job roles.

[Email](#)



Jessica Darling
Biological Teaching Technician
Newcastle University

Jessica Darling is a Biological Teaching Technician for the School of Natural and Environmental Sciences. She has been a technician for over 12 years, starting as an apprentice in a local high school before joining the University in 2013. Prior to her role in the School of Natural and Environmental Sciences, she worked in the Medical School as an Anatomy and Clinical Skills Technician. Currently, she provides technical support in a multi-disciplinary laboratory for a range of UG students. In her spare time, she enjoys being outdoors, whether that is walking along the coast or hiking in the Lake District.

[Email](#)



Speaker Biographies



JP Ashton-Kinlin
Marketing & Development Officer
Institute of Science & Technology (IST)

John-Paul started his career in the industry, then joined the University of Sheffield's Biomedical Science Department in 2013, where he assumed various technical and coordinator roles, collaborating internationally and engaging in research across neuroscience, cardiovascular science, and behaviour analysis. By 2017, he became Co-chair of the Technicians Network and actively contributed to the University Technician Commitment Steering Group to support the technical community. Venturing into entrepreneurship in 2018, John-Paul established his own businesses, leveraging his technical skills, with one company achieving a £500,000 annual turnover and employing over 100 staff. In 2024, he joined the IST Executive as Marketing & Development Officer, enhancing IST operations and contributing to its publications and a new creative registration scheme.



Kay McCready
Founder
Kay McCready Coaching

Kay McCready is a highly skilled emotional resilience coach, trauma practitioner, speaker, and 9D Breathwork facilitator. As the founder of Kay McCready Coaching and Co-Founder of BEAT Global Academy Ltd., she has created a transformative platform dedicated to empowering individuals who have weathered life's storms, faced trauma, and navigated adversity. With a deep-seated passion for uplifting people, Kay guides them in acknowledging, understanding, and processing their emotions. This journey not only reignites their inner spark but also sets them on a path to a life filled with emotional balance, fulfilment, and genuine liberation.

[Email](#), [Linkedin](#), [Facebook](#)



Karen Haggerty
Senior Technician
Northumbria University

Karen Haggerty is a Senior Technician at Northumbria University, working in the Chemistry teaching labs. Before Northumbria, she was Lab Manager for the NICR's Medicinal Chemistry Group at Newcastle University and Analytical Development Chemist at what is now Sterling Pharma Solutions. She is passionate about improving the student experience and making the lab a fun and inclusive environment and was the recipient of the 2023 Papin Prize for Contribution to Teaching. Karen enjoys baking and trying to get to Genius level on the NYT Spelling Bee!

[Email](#)



Speaker Biographies



Kelly Vere MBE
Director/University
Director of Technical Strategy
UK Institute for Technical Skills & Strategy (UK-ITSS)

Dr Kelly Vere MBE is the Director of Technical Strategy at the University of Nottingham where she began her career as a junior technician in 1999. She is a passionate advocate for technical skills, roles and careers and has created, facilitated and led a number of opportunities for the technical community, including the new UK Institute for Technical Skills & Strategy and the Technician Commitment initiative.

[Email](#), [Twitter](#)



Marie Oldfield
IST AI Officer and
EDI Coordinator
Institute of Science & Technology (IST)

Dr Marie Oldfield is the Chair and Founder of the IST AI Special Interest Group and Women in Tech Group, CEO of Oldfield Consultancy, and a Senior Lecturer at LSE. With a foundation in Mathematics and Philosophy, she is a distinguished figure in AI and Ethics, serving as a trusted advisor across government, defence, and legal sectors. Marie is at the forefront of Ethical AI, advocating for its advancement and application. A frequent speaker on ethics in AI, she contributes to discussions at prestigious forums like Chatham House. Committed to social impact, Marie collaborates with international organisations, including the UN, to support education and disaster relief, aiming to enhance the lives of the underprivileged. Additionally, she fulfills the role of EDI Coordinator for the IST.



Lucy Moore
Sustainability Manager
Scientific Laboratory Supplies

Lucy is the Sustainability Manager at Scientific Laboratory Supplies (SLS) and works with colleagues to instil and embed sustainability best practice across all functions of the business. Her current responsibilities span across both operational and supply chain sustainability, as well as supporting customer engagement and awareness. She has previous experience working in supplier engagement to facilitate corporate sustainability, and also within the higher education field consulting and delivering sustainability workshop programmes.

[Email](#)



Speaker Biographies



Mark Crabtree
Founder
Mark Stephen
Crabtree Consulting

Mark has a degree in social psychology and sociology and a master's level qualification in human Mark is an award-winning facilitator, a coach and an author who is passionate about supporting people when faced with organisational change. He has held senior HR and Organisation Development positions in the private, public and HE sectors. He can bring a wealth of experience and knowledge from diverse organisations whilst ensuring they are current and research-led. Mark works with clients in the HE sectors in the UK and globally. He was a lead facilitator in a Higher Education Leadership Development Programme for senior leaders at universities across India which was sponsored by the British Council and the UK and Indian governments. Recently, he was involved in scoping out a leadership programme for the Ukrainian HE sector.

[Email](#)



Saimir Luli
Scientific Officer
Newcastle University

Saimir Luli embarked on his research journey at Newcastle University as an MRes student in Ageing and Health, with a focus on diagnostic imaging. Subsequently, he worked as an in vivo imaging technician and undertook a part-time staff PhD in imaging chronic liver disease. After completing the PhD, Saimir Luli assumed the role of Facility Manager for the Preclinical In Vivo Imaging Facility. Recently, he spearheaded the development of Special Interest Groups, providing a platform for skills enhancement across various technologies. Additionally, Saimir Luli actively pursues his research interests in establishing non-invasive imaging techniques for monitoring liver disease.

[Linkedin](#)



Sarah Allen
Technical Careers Manager
UK Institute for Technical
Skills & Strategy (UK-ITSS)

Sarah is the Technical Career Manager for MI Talent and the Career Pathways Lead for ITSS. With over 10 years experience in recruitment and a background in careers education and careers coaching, she is passionate about supporting technicians to develop their careers.

[Email](#), [Linkedin](#)



Speaker Biographies



Andrew Lambert
Founder and ADHD Coach
ADHDaptive

With a background overshadowed by the challenges of undiagnosed ADHD, Andrew experienced a pivotal moment of self-awareness following a mental breakdown in the workplace, leading to a diagnosis of ADHD combined type. This discovery transformed Andrew's understanding of past struggles in education, professional life, and personal interactions, igniting a passion for change. Moving beyond a fulfilling IT career, Andrew now embarks on a mission to advocate for neurodiversity, aspiring to be a guiding force in neurodiversity coaching. Committed to highlighting neurodiversity as a strength, Andrew aims to create a nurturing environment where individuals and organisations recognise and harness the unique potentials of neurodiverse minds.

[Email](#), [X \(Twitter\)](#), [LinkedIn](#)



Ben Mollitt
Head of Technology,
Infrastructure &
Environment Directorate
University of Liverpool

Ben Mollitt currently serves as the Acting Head of Technology, Infrastructure & Environment Directorate within the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences at the University of Liverpool. The Directorate plays a crucial role in providing foundational support for the faculty's teaching and research endeavors. This includes overseeing the Shared Research Facilities, managing the estate, ensuring regulatory compliance, and supporting the technical and scientific staff. Ben has been associated with Liverpool since 2010, during which time he has held various positions related to finance, planning, and research administration. In 2016, he assumed the role of Business Manager for what is now known as the Liverpool Shared Research Facilities (LIV-SRF), and he continues to contribute to the success of these remarkable facilities and the dedicated individuals involved.

[Email](#)



Becca Brighty
Business Psychologist
Brighty People

Becca Brighty is a Business Psychologist and Neurodiversity Coach. She helps her clients understand, and use, their incredible and unique brains to make the impact they want to in the world. Becca was diagnosed age 34 with ADHD and used her professional skills to help her change the way she works. These changes completely changed how productive she is and the impact she feels she is making in the world. Becca is on a mission to help businesses become more neurodiversity- friendly and help neurodivergent individuals make the impact they want to in the world.

[Email](#), [LinkedIn](#)



Demelza Menendez
Technical Team Leader
Newcastle University

Demel, with an MSc in Environmental Microbiology and Management and Environmental Engineering Consultancy, has been working at Newcastle University for eight years, focusing on managing the support team for biological research laboratories. This includes overseeing aquaria, microscopy, controlled temperature rooms, Cat II research labs, central services, health and safety, and assisting in estate and equipment management, recruitment, and small projects. She also provides technical and teaching support for undergraduate and postgraduate classes, particularly for field work on the research vessel at Blyth. Before joining Newcastle University, Demel enjoyed a career break in California with her family. Her career began in Spain as an Environmental Consultant, where she conducted environmental audits and assessments, developed pollution control strategies, and ensured legislative compliance for industries.



Speaker Biographies



Jan Brett
Faculty Strategic Technical Lead
University of Liverpool

Jan is the Strategic Technical Lead in the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences at Liverpool University where she collaborates with technicians on career profession, technical development, and workforce planning. Jan oversees laboratory sustainability, plus health and safety; making their faculty the best it can be. She is a Chartered Scientist and Fellow with the Institute of Science and Technology and a Specialist Advisor to the National Technician Development Centre. Jan sits on the steering groups for Liverpool's Technician Commitment and Technical Network.

[Email](#), [X \(Twitter\)](#), [LinkedIn](#)



Melanie Hannah
Technical Manager
University of Sheffield

Melanie Hannah joined the University of Sheffield as a trainee technician in Chemistry. Subsequently, she transitioned to Biomedical Science as the Technical Manager, assuming responsibility for a team of 40 technicians in the School of Biosciences. Prior to this role, Melanie worked at Sheffield Hallam University, specifically in the Promar International UKAS accredited laboratories. Her initial laboratory experience was at British Glass. Melanie possesses a diverse range of professional interests, including technical career pathways, apprenticeships, and professional registration. Outside of work, she enjoys constructing props for outreach activities and notably contributed to the Guinness World Record for the world's largest fruit battery, thereby promoting awareness about the necessity for improved energy storage solutions.

[Email](#), [X \(Twitter\)](#)



Joanne Hartley-Metcalf
Universities T Level
Support Manager
UK Institute for Technical
Skills & Strategy (UK-ITSS)

Jo is a former science teacher, educational author, and examiner with 16 years' experience within senior educational management roles. Jo decided on a career change in December 2023 finishing her teaching career as Director of Applied Qualifications. Jo has been with the University of Nottingham since Jan 2024 and is the Universities T-Level Support Manager for the UK Institute for Technical Skills and Strategy. Jo is deeply passionate about raising awareness of post-16 technical qualifications and their significance as a starting point for technical careers, career development and sustainability of the technical workforce.

[Email](#), [X \(Twitter\)](#), [LinkedIn](#)



Natalie Homer
Mass Spectrometry
Core Manager
University of Edinburgh

Natalie studied at University of Strathclyde for a BSc(Hons) Chemistry and then a PhD in Erythrocyte oxidation and hormone replacement therapy, before moving to University of Edinburgh for a post-doctoral role. In 2004 she became Manager of the Mass Spectrometry Core where she develops novel methods for small molecules for biological and clinical studies and has been in that role since. In addition, in 2018 she heard about the Technician Commitment and from 2019 – 2023 chaired University of Edinburgh Technician Steering Committee and is a founding member of the Technical Specialist Network. She is passionate about the Technician Commitment, team science and continues to work on mass spectrometry method development and applications, with a particular love of steroids.

[Email](#), [X \(Twitter\)](#)



Speaker Biographies



Ruth Francis
**ITSS Learning and
Development Manager**
**UK Institute for Technical Skills
& Strategy (UK-ITSS)**

Ruth is a Learning and Development Manager for the Institute of Technical Skills and Strategy. With over 20 years experience in people and organisational development and also a coach and therapist. She is passionate about supporting others to identify skills and strengths and live more of an enriched life.

[Email](#)



Zoe Windscheffel
**Neurodiversity
Project Coordinator**
Children North East

Children North East exists because growing up can be hard. We work with babies, children and young people within their families, schools and communities to ensure they grow up to be healthy and happy. Our SEND/Neuro team works extensively with neurodivergent young people providing individualised support, psychoeducation and group consultation to understand their lived experiences. We aim to empower neurodivergent young people and work towards creating a more inclusive society through our training. As the Neurodiversity Project Coordinator, I am personally responsible for designing and delivering interventions to support neurodivergent young people and increase the understanding of the wider community.

[Email](#)



Programme Schedule

Schedule	Session Title	Theme	Speaker (s)	Abstract	Key Take Aways
9:00 – 10:00	Registration and Coffee				
10:00 – 10:10	Welcome				
10:10 – 10:55	Keynote 1: The Science of Self Promotion	Career	Hannah Roberts	Many people are torn – afraid to speak up, be seen, or minimise their achievements and at the same time, are frustrated that they are getting in their own way. Feeling like you will be exposed to not know enough and being your own worst critic is a toxic combination. It can result in procrastination, individualism and ruminating thoughts. Do you struggle to speak clearly and openly about your successes without it feeling like a humble brag?	Discover how to self-promote confidently and with integrity to elevate your professional profile with three quick and easy impactful exercises. Uncover your unique stress team of 'selves' which hinder self-promotion and learn how to regain real choice in your behaviours and actions. Work powerfully with your inner critic to break the cycle of pre-empting, overthinking, and ruminating to unlock your self promotional muscle.
11:00 – 11:45	Parallel 1				
Session A	Professional Positioning	Communications	Hannah Roberts	What does your LinkedIn profile say about you? Most professional profiles are either stuck in the past like a dusty old CV, or languishing in the present. Discover how to powerfully package and present your personal brand as a marketing strategy for future job opportunities, stakeholder engagement, networking or increased visibility and impact, with three quick and easy exercises.	Articulate your unique edge into a professional positioning statement which can be used as a bio on professional social media or an elevator pitch and will attract opportunities like a magnet. Learn the foundational strategies to build your network full of ideal employers, collaborators or key stakeholders. Harness your network into ideal opportunities with 15 minutes of micro-actions.
Session B	The Technology Specialists Network	Communications	Natalie Homer	The UK Technology Specialists Network (TSN) was founded in 2022 and brings together technology specialists to learn new ways of working, share knowledge and insights to support colleagues in similar roles. We aim to include all disciplines of technical specialists including creative arts, archivists as well as biological and physical sciences and beyond. Technical staff from UK universities and research institutes, sometimes known as Research Technology Professionals (RTPs), are welcome to join the Technology Specialists Network (TSN).	What Technology Specialists Network is and who it is for What the challenges for technology specialists are and how the network is here to help.



Programme Schedule

Schedule	Session Title	Theme	Speaker (s)	Abstract	Key Take Aways
Session C	Liverpool Research Technical Professional Pathway – one year on	Career	Jan Brett / Ben Mollitt	In 2023 Liverpool University launched its Research Technical Professional career pathway; in order to recognise the vital technical talent in the organisation that underpins much of their teaching and research activities. This is a promotional pathway that runs from grade six to grade 10; which is a professorial level equivalent. The first cohort applied and moved onto the pathway in the summer of 2023 and brought positive stories around progression and recognition which will be shared during the presentation.	We will provide an update on progress at Liverpool in implementing this career pathway. We will discuss case studies, positive news and lessons learned. We can facilitate discussions on how others could implement something similar in their own institutions.
Session D	Special Interest Groups (SIG): Avenues for skill development and building a professional network	Career	Saimir Luli	SIGs are community-driven, offering an open, inclusive, and supportive environment for students and staff to freely exchange ideas and improve their skills. Newcastle University has established a network of SIGs spanning various methodologies and technologies. Through SIG participation, individuals can acquire new skills and actively shape their professional development.	Participants will gain insights into locally accessible SIGs, understand how to engage with these groups, and explore the opportunities they offer for learning about diverse technologies and methodologies.
Session E	Sustainability Flash Talks - Industry Insights: (A) The journey to determine product sustainability (30Min) (B) Technician led teaching laboratory sustainable practices	Sustainability	(A) Lucy Moore, (B) Jessica Darling	(A) Let's face it - the laboratory space has been dealt a difficult hand when it comes to sustainability. And this complexity makes it very tempting to blindly embrace any green coloured branding, vague blanket statements, or over-enthusiastic marketing slogans which make products sound like a sustainable choice. This talk explores the current maturity and capability of the laboratory market from a sustainability perspective and how labs can effectively navigate the challenges faced when addressing product sustainability. (B) In this session I will be sharing what changes we have made in our multi-disciplinary laboratory to promote sustainable practices to UG students and reduce our environmental impact. We started with the LEAF framework, and our biggest wins so far have been reducing our single use plastics, and working with a waste contractor to implement a recycle scheme for those items we can't eliminate.	(A) An in-depth understanding of sustainability behind laboratory products and how to navigate the challenges. (B) Implementing changes and communication to students. Insight on UCL's LEAF - Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework scheme. Insight into recycling lab plastics. Small wins to take away to be more sustainable.



Programme Schedule

Schedule	Session Title	Theme	Speaker (s)	Abstract	Key Take Aways
Session F	Neurodiversity Maths - Understand the Neurodivergent Brain to Empower Yourself and Others at Work	Communications	Becca Brighty	<p>The working world was not designed with the neurodivergent brain in mind. Neurodivergent individuals have a very unique and creative way of seeing the world and are a huge asset to any organisation.</p> <p>Unfortunately the way the workplaces are designed often stops neurodivergent employees from playing to their strengths and making the impact they can.</p> <p>During this interactive workshop I will share information on how the neurodivergent brain works and how you can use this information to empower yourself and those around you.</p>	<p>You will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why the workplace is often difficult to navigate for neurodivergent individuals. How the neurodivergent brain works differently from the neurotypical brain. Small changes we can all make to make the workplace more accessible for all.
Session G	Resilience Mastery: The SUN Method	Wellbeing	Kay McCready	<p>The workshop led by Kay McCready, founder of Kay McCready Coaching a certified Emotional Resilience Coach, Trauma Practitioner and 9D Breathwork Facilitator, focuses on building emotional resilience and well-being through storytelling, practical exercises, and evidence-based tools. Drawing from her challenging 28-year police career and personal struggles, Kay highlights the importance of managing emotions and stresses of daily life to build resilience.</p>	<p>The workshop offers an introduction to the three foundational elements of emotional resilience through Kay's 'SUN' method, aimed at empowering individuals to excel despite challenges.</p> <p>Attendees will gain insights into managing work stress, boosting emotional awareness, and establishing lasting well-being practices.</p> <p>This session is designed to positively influence workplace dynamics, customer satisfaction, and personal fulfilment by providing tools to safeguard against psychological distress and burnout.</p>
Session H	Supplier exhibition, Professional Zone, Creative Practices Techsibition		SLS / Professional bodies / Technicians	<p>Supplier exhibition: focussed on sustainability; Professional bodies and other organisations focussed on careers;</p> <p>Techsibition: A virtual exhibition showcasing and celebrating the work of technicians in creative practices who have an active creative practice. Our 'Techsibition' will highlight the work of the technician that relates to their technical role.</p>	<p>Network, make useful connections and find best practice.</p>
11:45 – 12:15	Break				



Programme Schedule

Schedule	Session Title	Theme	Speaker (s)	Abstract	Key Take Aways
12:15 – 13:00	Parallel 2				
Session I	Neurodiversity Maths- Understand the Neurodivergent Brain to Empower Yourself and Others at Work	Communications	Becca Brighty	<p>The working world was not designed with the neurodivergent brain in mind. Neurodivergent individuals have a very unique and creative way of seeing the world and are a huge asset to any organisation.</p> <p>Unfortunately the way the workplaces are designed often stops neurodivergent employees from playing to their strengths and making the impact they can.</p> <p>During this interactive workshop I will share information on how the neurodivergent brain works and how you can use this information to empower yourself and those around you.</p>	<p>You will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why the workplace is often difficult to navigate for neurodivergent individuals. How the neurodivergent brain works differently from the neurotypical brain. Small changes we can all make to make the workplace more accessible for all.
Session J	Navigating funding opportunities: Effective strategies for technical colleagues in grant writing	Communications	Alex Laude / Gwen Averley	<p>As a technician and / or research technical professional (RTP) we may face several barriers when it comes to funding applications and grant writing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The lack of recognition and support from our host institution 2) Freedom by line managers for us to explore funding opportunities 3) Having to balance time required to write applications with the day job 4) Not knowing what funding opportunities are out there and if we can apply to them <p>Funders are beginning to recognise that technical staff are sometimes the best placed individuals to deliver on equipment support and management as well method development and data analysis. To this end, there are now more internal and external funding opportunities open to technical staff. Funders recognise the wealth of knowledge and experience that technicians bring to the research process and are involving them in the grant review process itself. Writing grants can be challenging for technicians, especially if it's the first one that you have ever written. Within this workshop we will explore funding opportunities open to technical staff, discuss some successful examples and dive into the grant writing process itself. Remember, your expertise is invaluable. By seizing opportunities and actively participating in grant writing or supporting others that do, you will contribute significantly to advancing research.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the various aspects of making a grant application • An understanding of the contributions you can make to a grant application • An appreciation of the value to your organisation of your contributing to grant applications • Suggestions as to how you can start building up your CV in this respect over time • Possible areas in which you might specialise re grant applications.



Programme Schedule

Schedule	Session Title	Theme	Speaker (s)	Abstract	Key Take Aways
Session K	Unlock the pathway to technical careers by hosting T level industry placements	Career	Joanne Hartley-Metcalfe	Discover how the UK Institute for Technical Skills and Strategy can support you to open doors to technical careers by hosting T level industry placements. This session will spotlight success experienced by universities currently hosting placements. You will get the opportunity to receive personalised support from a subject expert, helping you to overcome barriers. You will leave feeling empowered with knowledge plus a toolkit enabling you to make your journey to hosting T level placements a straightforward one.	<p>You will leave the session being mindful of the planning considerations required to start hosting T level industry placements.</p> <p>The knowledge and insight gained will enable effective preparation and efficient set up of industry placements.</p> <p>You will also have access to step-by-step resources to support various personnel involved such as placement coordinators, line managers, HR and more.</p> <p>Ultimately, you will leave with the know-how!</p>
Session L	Looking after yourself - wellbeing and resilience in the face of constant change	Wellbeing	Mark Crabtree	<p>This session is for individuals at any level in an organisation or any stage of their career who are experiencing significant or frequent changes at work or workplace challenges. (And who isn't).</p> <p>The participative and supportive approach of the session aims to help individuals understand the science behind how change impacts us and how it can affect our well-being, why we can sometimes resist change, and how we are affected in different ways. We will then focus on practical steps which enable people to build resilience in the face of inevitable ongoing change and uncertainty.</p>	<p>By the end of this 45 minutes workshop, participants will have explored how they make sense of change and will have developed an understanding of how personal beliefs, values, and past experiences affect behaviour and our approaches to change.</p> <p>They will have explored how to build change readiness and what individuals can do to develop resilience in themselves and others.</p>
Session M	<p>Sustainability Flash Talks: Innovation</p> <p>(A) Our journey: My Green Lab Freezer Challenge 2024</p> <p>(B) Eppendorf Biobased Consumables - reducing your carbon footprint without compromising quality</p>	Sustainability	<p>(A) Demelza Menendez,</p> <p>(B) Ruairi Gordon, Eppendorf UK</p>	<p>(A) In this session we will cover our School journey through the Freezer Challenge 2024 organized by My Green Lab. We will share how we have become more energy efficient with our lab's cold storage, improving sample accessibility, reducing risks and saving costs for our School. No other international competition engages more laboratories in sustainability than the Freezer Challenge. Since 2017, freezer Challenge participants have saved a cumulative 44.7 million kWh of energy!</p> <p>(B) How to reduce your carbon footprint without compromising on the quality of consumables.</p>	<p>(A) Learn about cold storage best practices. How to engage lab users. The challenges of the Challenge and how to participate in the 2025 Challenge.</p> <p>(B) Understanding how biobased technology in impacting in the space of traditional consumable plastics and the benefits this brings to your laboratory and beyond.</p>



Programme Schedule

Schedule	Session Title	Theme	Speaker (s)	Abstract	Key Take Aways
Session N	An introduction to two new professional accreditation frameworks for technical staff	Career	John-Paul Ashton-Kinlin / Marie Oldfield	The IST has recently introduced 2 new accreditation frameworks for technical staff, the first being for AI Practitioners and 2nd for those working in the Creative Industries & Technologies. Both accreditation frameworks are structured to be equivalent to the existing science & engineering professional registers and aimed at the technical community across a wide range of sectors. Those working in AI and in the Creative Technologies now have a mechanism for recognising and validating their professional expertise and the session will provide the background and basics of these important new professional registers.	Delegates should gain an understanding of the basis of the registration frameworks, knowledge of the accreditation requirements and process, along with an overview of the benefits to be derived from professional registration generally, and the new registers in particular.
Session O	Resilience Mastery: The SUN Method	Wellbeing	Kay McCready	The workshop led by Kay McCready, founder of Kay McCready Coaching a certified Emotional Resilience Coach, Trauma Practitioner and 9D Breathwork Facilitator, focuses on building emotional resilience and well-being through storytelling, practical exercises, and evidence-based tools. Drawing from her challenging 28-year police career and personal struggles, Highlighting the importance of managing emotions and stresses of daily life to build resilience.	The workshop offers an introduction to the three foundational elements of emotional resilience through Kay's 'SUN' method, aimed at empowering individuals to excel despite challenges. Attendees will gain insights into managing work stress, boosting emotional awareness, and establishing lasting well-being practices. This session is designed to positively influence workplace dynamics, customer satisfaction, and personal fulfilment by providing tools to safeguard against psychological distress and burnout.
Session P	Supplier exhibition, Professional Zone, Creative Practices Techsibition		SLS / Professional bodies / Technicians	Supplier exhibition: focussed on sustainability; Professional bodies and other organisations focussed on careers; Techsibition: A virtual exhibition showcasing and celebrating the work of technicians in creative practices who have an active creative practice. Our 'Techsibition' will highlight the work of the technician that relates to their technical role.	Network, make useful connections and find best practice.

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch



Programme Schedule

Schedule	Session Title	Theme	Speaker (s)	Abstract	Key Take Aways
14:00 – 14:45	Parallel 3				
Session Q	Job Crafting for Technicians	Career	Ruth Francis / Sarah Allen	<p>Job crafting is an evidence-based approach that enables you to look across 5 different areas within your job role. These are your tasks, your skills, your relationships, your wellbeing and your meaning and purpose. Come along to this informative and practical session as we facilitate you through some exercises that will help you to identify what you brings you energy and what takes your energy away. We'll explore some of the empowering ways in which you can implement your ideas daily into your role. Small changes can have huge benefits and job crafting can help you create a role that aligns with your values, strengths and your aspirations. Making your job more you.</p>	This session will offer an opportunity to develop self-awareness and proactive developmental thinking around your career.
Session R	Enhancing Collaborative Workflows and Efficiency in Microsoft 365	Communications	Jack Ennis	<p>In this interactive workshop, we will explore two areas: collaboration within Microsoft 365 and leveraging Copilot in Microsoft Edge. Participants will gain practical insights into optimizing collaborative practices and harnessing AI-driven tools for improved productivity. Collaboration is at the heart of effective teamwork. We'll delve into best practices for seamless collaboration using Microsoft 365 tools: Teams: Learn how to facilitate real-time conversations and work together on files and ideas. OneDrive: Understand how to store and sync files in the cloud, ensuring accessibility from any device. We'll emphasize sharing files with specific individuals and managing work in progress. SharePoint: Explore robust permission management and document storage. Microsoft Copilot in Edge is a smart AI chat assistant that can help with tasks like web search, writing and re-writing content, creating images, and more. Microsoft Copilot in Edge uses web data but cannot access or use data or content in your Microsoft 365 account, such as OneDrive files, emails, or Outlook calendar.</p>	<p>Attendees will understand effective file sharing and collaboration in M365 and the link between OneDrive, SharePoint and Teams. They will gain knowledge in effective file permission and sharing practice. Attendees will learn how to get started with Microsoft Copilot and understand what a prompt is. They will learn how to build and iterate a prompt and be able to identify use cases in their own context.</p>



Programme Schedule

Schedule	Session Title	Theme	Speaker (s)	Abstract	Key Take Aways
Session S	My Journey... so far!	Career	Kelly Vere	<p>Kelly Vere is a leading figure in the UK's technical workforce, with a distinguished career as a technician and a champion of technical skills and education. In this talk, she will share her journey from working as a junior medical technician to becoming the Director of Technical Strategy at the University of Nottingham.</p> <p>She will also discuss a number of key milestones on that journey such as the creation of the Technician Commitment, a national initiative to raise the profile and recognition of technicians across higher education and research, and TALENT, a Research England funded transformation programme to provide status and opportunity for the technical community. Finally, she will link the latest part of her career journey to the vision for the future of technical skills and education in the UK, as the founding director of the UK Institute for Technical Skills & Strategy.</p>	Participants will gain from a shared career experience and will be able to link key milestones in my journey to their own journey - wherever it takes them.
Session T	<p>(A) Navigating the Currents: ADHD in the Technical Workplace</p> <p>(B) Pictorial lab scripts - improving the lab experience for neurodivergent and anxious students</p>	Communications	<p>(A) Andrew Lambert,</p> <p>(B) Karen Haggerty</p>	<p>In an intimate and revealing session, Andrew Lambert will share his insights into the world of the workplace, living with ADHD in a conversation led by Karen Haggerty. This discussion aims to uncover the unique challenges and unexpected advantages of ADHD within technical roles, shedding light on a subject often overlooked in workplace dynamics. Through a series of thoughtfully curated questions, Karen will explore the day-to-day realities faced by people navigating ADHD in the workplace. The session will delve into the difficulties of maintaining focus, organisation, and time management in a role that demands precision and attention to detail. Concurrently, it will celebrate the distinctive strengths that individuals with ADHD bring to their roles, such as creativity, problem-solving abilities, and exceptional hyperfocus on tasks of interest. Importantly, the talk will not only highlight personal experiences but also offer an overview of the support mechanisms available within the UK workplace for individuals with ADHD.</p> <p>From formal accommodations, legal considerations, and adjustments to informal support networks, coaching, therapy, and coping strategies, the session aims to provide a comprehensive guide to navigating professional life as a technician with ADHD.</p>	Relatively simple things that technicians can do to help make practicals less intimidating for students particularly those with anxiety and ASD.



Programme Schedule

Schedule	Session Title	Theme	Speaker (s)	Abstract	Key Take Aways
Session U	Sustainability Flash talks: Best practice (A) Reducing energy use in Biosciences at Sheffield (B) The journey to determine product sustainability (30Min) (C) Supplier led presentation	Sustainability	(A) Melanie Hannah, (B) Lucy Moore	(A) An overview of the ULT (Ultra Low temperature) Freezer Task and Finish group in the School of Biosciences at The University of Sheffield. (B) Let's face it - the laboratory space has been dealt a difficult hand when it comes to sustainability. And this complexity makes it very tempting to blindly embrace any green coloured branding, vague blanket statements, or over-enthusiastic marketing slogans which make products sound like a sustainable choice. This talk explores the current maturity and capability of the laboratory market from a sustainability perspective and how labs can effectively navigate the challenges faced when addressing product sustainability.	(A) Strategies to encourage behaviour change in cold storage practice in research laboratories. Examples of pan - university engagement to achieve energy saving objectives. (B) An in-depth understanding of sustainability behind laboratory products and how to navigate the challenges.
Session V	Neurodiversity workshop: Societal Barriers	Wellbeing	Zoe Windscheffel	A workshop to introduce the lived experience of neurodivergent communities, shining a light on the societal barriers that they face and considering how to be more inclusive in the workplace.	Participants will gain an understanding of neurodiversity and neurodivergence including key terminology, insights into the barriers the neurodivergent community face and the practical knowledge of reasonable adjustments that can be considered to create a more inclusive workplace.
Session W	Resilience Mastery: The SUN Method	Wellbeing	Kay McCready	The workshop led by Kay McCready, founder of Kay McCready Coaching a certified Emotional Resilience Coach, Trauma Practitioner and 9D Breathwork Facilitator, focuses on building emotional resilience and well-being through storytelling, practical exercises, and evidence-based tools. Drawing from her challenging 28-year police career and personal struggles, Kay highlights the importance of managing emotions and stresses of daily life to build resilience.	The workshop offers an introduction to the three foundational elements of emotional resilience through Kay's 'SUN' method, aimed at empowering individuals to excel despite challenges. Attendees will gain insights into managing work stress, boosting emotional awareness, and establishing lasting well-being practices. This session is designed to positively influence workplace dynamics, customer satisfaction, and personal fulfilment by providing tools to safeguard against psychological distress and burnout.



Programme Schedule

Schedule	Session Title	Theme	Speaker (s)	Abstract	Key Take Aways
Session X	Supplier exhibition, Professional Zone, Creative Practices Techsibition		SLS / Professional bodies / Technicians	Supplier exhibition: focussed on sustainability; Professional bodies and other organisations focussed on careers; Techsibition: A virtual exhibition showcasing and celebrating the work of technicians in creative practices who have an active creative practice. Our 'Techsibition' will highlight the work of the technician that relates to their technical role.	Network, make useful connections and find best practice.
14:45 – 15:00	Break				
15:00 – 15:45	Keynote 2: The UK Institute for Technical Skills & Strategy	Career	Kelly Vere	<p>This talk will discuss the new UK Institute for Technical Skills & Strategy and highlight its four pivotal work streams.</p> <p>These encompass evidence based research to further sector understanding on technical roles, skills, careers and education, advocating for policy changes, fostering innovative practices, and actively fostering connectivity, culture, and community across sectors to advance technical skills in higher education, research and innovation.</p>	Attendees will learn more about the work of the UK Institute for Technical Skills & Strategy, and the opportunities it is providing for technicians and their organisations.
15:45 – 15:50	Final Comments and Close				
16:00 – 18:00	Drinks Reception				

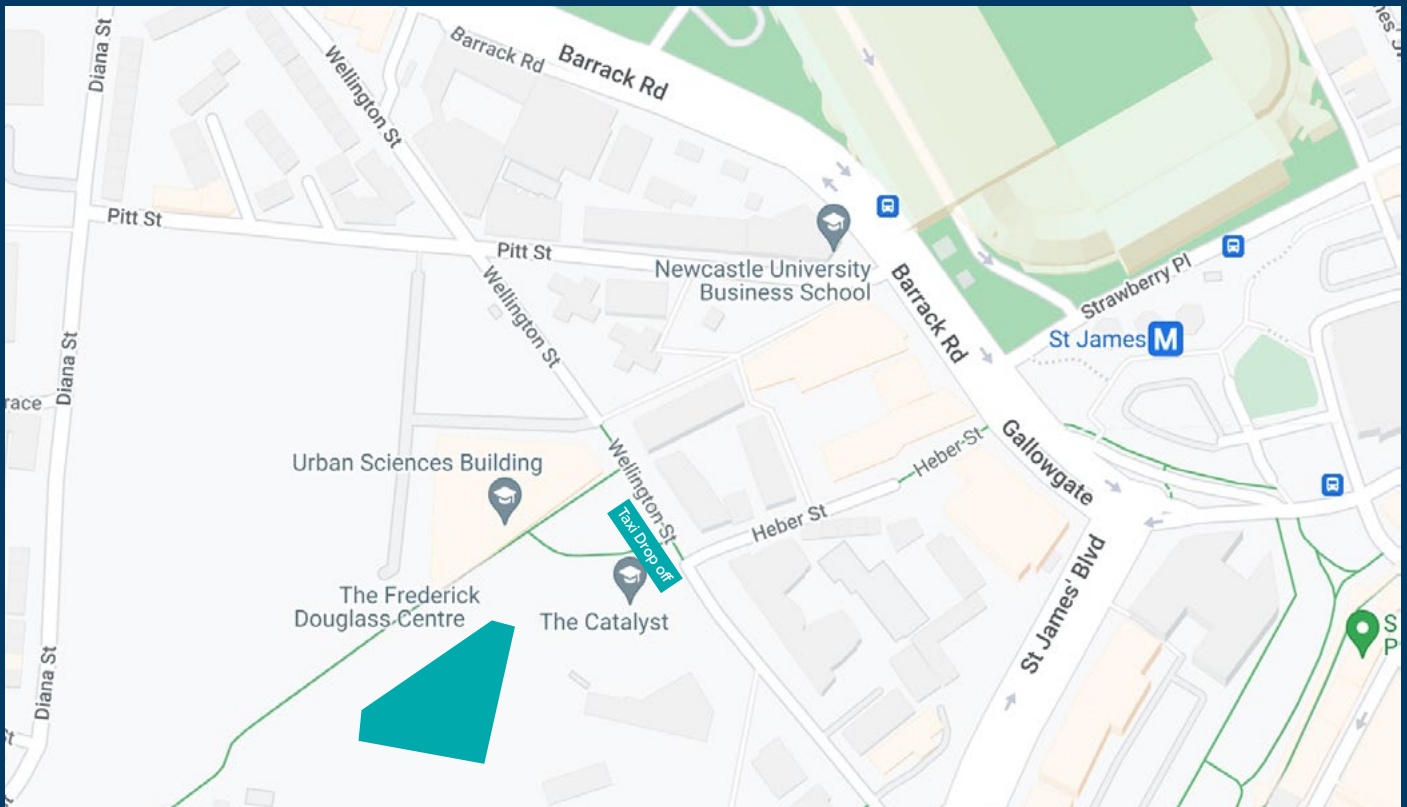


Travel and Accommodation

If you are planning to attend the conference and would like to book a hotel, we have a list of hotels with preferential rates, to find out more, go to our website:

www.newcastlegateshead.com/TechnicianPartnershipConference2024

Map & Directions for Frederick Douglass Centre – Newcastle Helix



The Frederick Douglass Centre is located on the new Newcastle Helix Site, close to St James Park.

By Train (15-minute walk from Central Station)

From Central Station cross the road onto Westgate Road. Turn left and walk up Westgate Road and then right onto Bath Lane. Cross over St James' Boulevard and continue on Bath Lane for 200m. The building is on the left-hand side.

By Metro (5-minute walk from St James Metro)

From St James Metro Station cross over Gallowgate and walk up Heber Street (with the Sandman Hotel on your left). The building will be in front of you.

By Bus (5-minute walk from Barrack Road)

The nearest bus stop is Barrack Road-St James Park. Walk down Barrack Road in the direction of the City Centre. Turn right onto Heber Street and continue to Wellington Street. The building will be in front of you.

By Taxi

Our postcode is NE4 5TG. Taxis can drop off on Wellington Street, just outside The Frederick Douglass Centre.