



PROGRAMME

TECHNICAL CONFERENCE 2025

University of Birmingham

Thursday 18th September

Thank You to our Key Sponsors

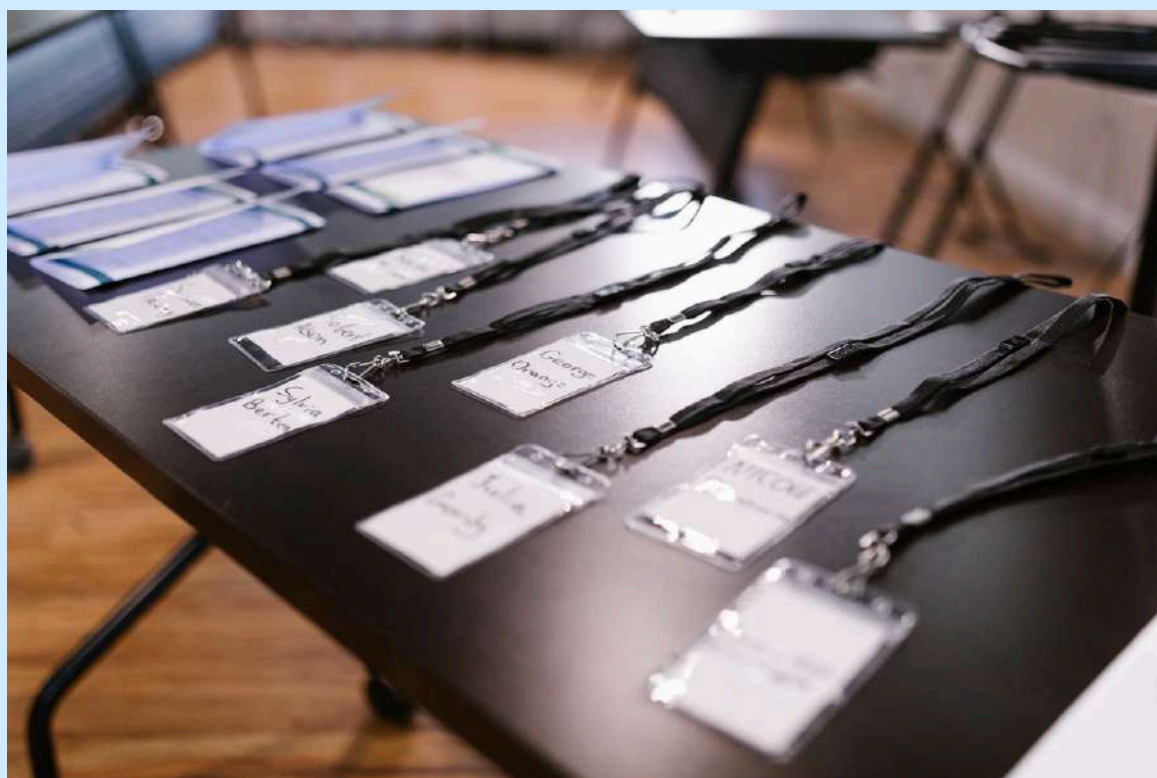


siso UniGreenScheme



academia
the technology group

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2025 Key Sponsors:



About the IST Conference

The IST has been supporting the technical workforce in the creative, digital, engineering and science technologies for over 75 Years.

Our aim is to make the Institute all embracing and, in order to achieve this, help/advice networks, skills training, specialist forums, recognised qualifications, continuing career development opportunities and guidance will be available to the membership.

Recognition of professional standing is high on our agenda and, most importantly, expansion of the vibrant community of specialist, technical and managerial colleagues who will work together to help make a difference and shape the future.

Our Annual Conference plays a vital role in giving technicians the opportunity to network with other technical staff and managers from across the UK, as well as providing the chance to take part in a National event or deliver a presentations or talk.

Previous Conferences:

- 2024 - Lancaster
- 2023 - London
- 2022 - York
- 2021 - Hybrid
- 2020 - Online
- 2019 - Birmingham
- 2018 - Newcastle
- 2017 - Leicester
- 2016 - Manchester
- 2015 - Leeds
- 2014 - Sheffield



We always aim to move around the country to give as many technicians the opportunity to attend our Conferences in future.

If you are interested in taking part in next years Conference, either being part of the organising committee, giving a talk or showcasing your specialist area, please contact us at office@istonline.org.uk.

We hope you enjoy the day at The University of Birmingham.

PROGRAMME 2025

09:00-09:30	Registration
09:30-09:50	Welcome and Opening Remarks
09:50-10:50	<u>Keynote 1</u> Navigating the Inflection Point: Creativity, AI and the Future of Innovation L02 - Lecture Theatre
10:50-11:10	Refreshment Break, Exhibition and Networking
11:15-11:55	SESSION ONE (Details on Pages 7 - 9) Workshop 1 - 6: Various Locations
12:00-12:40	SESSION TWO (Details on Pages 10 - 12) Workshop 7 - 12: Various Locations
12:40-14:00	Lunch Break, Exhibition and Networking IST Drop-in Registration Desk
14:00-15:00	<u>Keynote 2</u> Artificial Intelligence: the Good, the Bad, and the Grey Area
15:00-15:10	Awards, Announcements and Acknowledgements L02 - Lecture Theatre
15:10-15:40	Refreshment Break, Exhibition and Networking
15:45-16:45	<u>Keynote 3</u> Workplace survival skills or managing your manager because adulting is hard L02 - Lecture Theatre
16:45	Depart for home - Safe Journey!

Programme Outline

CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Professor Tracy Harwood
Professor of Digital Culture



Professor Kit Windows-Yule
Founder of AI Startup EvoPhase



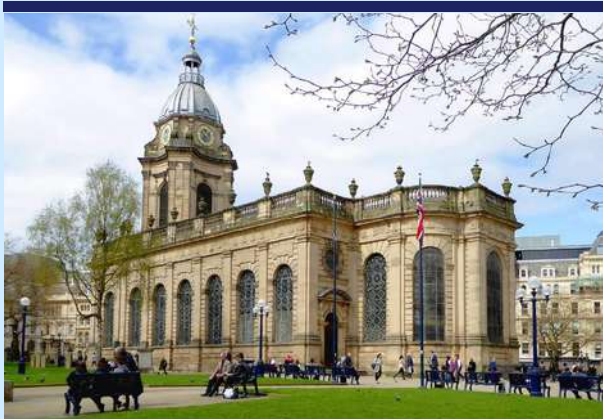
Dr Raj Persaud
Consultant Psychiatrist, Life Coach
and Executive Coach



Cadbury World



Library of Birmingham



St. Philip's Cathedral



Bullring Centre

PROGRAMME 2025

SESSION ONE

11:15 - 11:55

Workshop 1	AI and Technology	ACCES: An accessible evolutionary framework for optimising just about anything	Room 109
Workshop 2	Creative Technologies/ Media/Comms	Key Sponsor - Academia Workshop: How to use AI to leverage the benefits of immersive learning on any device - from tablets to XR headsets to immersive rooms	Room 119
Workshop 3	Careers	NTDC HETT Technician Career & Promotion Pathways; introducing the new National Education Technical Professional Pathway	Room M208
Workshop 4	Careers	Upskilling Through Apprenticeships: Taking Control of Your Technical Career	Room M209
Workshop 5	Health & Safety & Environment	Key Sponsor - LabCup workshop: Inventory Management: An Easier And Safer Way To Store And Use	Room M218
Workshop 6	Health & Safety & Environment	Innovative Sustainability: Bridging Science and the Arts for a Greener Future	L02 – Lecture Theatre

SESSION TWO

12:00 - 12:40

Workshop 7	Creative Technologies/ Media/Comms	StageLinc: Connecting Technical Skills to the Technical Challenges of a Region	Room 119
Workshop 8	Creative Technologies/ Media/Comms	The Accreditation Edge: Real Stories from Creative Tech Trailblazers	Room M208
Workshop 9	Careers	Career Alignment in a Changing World: Aligning Personal Aspirations with Organisational Needs	L02 – Lecture Theatre
Workshop 10	Health & Safety & Environment	Key Sponsor - UniGreen Workshop: Selling Unwanted Lab Equipment with UniGreenScheme - Launched by a UoB Student in 2015	Room M209
Workshop 11	Health & Safety & Environment	Key Sponsor - Chemical and Safety Sheet Management	Room M218
Workshop 12	AI and Technology	What is Deep Learning?	Room 109



09:50 - 10:50

Keynote Speaker 1

Professor Tracy Harwood

*Navigating the Inflection Point:
Creativity, AI and the Future of
Innovation*

We are standing at a pivotal moment in the evolution of technology – a convergence of artificial intelligence, creative computing, and accelerated innovation. In this keynote, we'll explore how technical professionals can lead through disruption by embracing adaptability, ethical foresight, and interdisciplinary collaboration. From generative AI to immersive design tools, emerging technologies are not just reshaping the tools we use – they are redefining how we think, create, and solve problems.

This session will dive into real-world applications of AI in creative and technical domains, highlight the skills and mindsets needed to stay ahead of rapid change, and offer a strategic lens for navigating ambiguity with curiosity and confidence. Whether you're an engineer, developer, designer, or technology leader, you'll leave with practical insights and forward-thinking strategies for thriving in a future that's already here.

2025 Key Sponsors:



Birmingham Town Hall





14:00 - 15:00

Keynote Speaker 2

Professor Kit Windows-Yule

Artificial Intelligence: the Good, the Bad, and the Grey Area

Artificial Intelligence is rapidly becoming ubiquitous in both Academia and Industry – and indeed our daily lives. While it is undoubtedly a powerful tool for efficiency and productivity across many contexts, its relationship with sustainability can be a little less clear-cut. Through his experience as an academic researcher, a BridgeAI Independent Scientific Advisor, a Research Ethics Reviewer for the Alan Turing Institute, and founder of an AI start-up, who has worked on AI adoption with more than 20 companies spanning 8 industrial sectors, Prof Windows-Yule has witnessed the application of AI in a broad range of contexts, and with varying degrees of success.

This talk showcases AI at its best and worst, and provides a number of key, widely-generalisable learning points gained from his experience.

2025 Key Sponsors:



Birmingham Skyline



15:45 - 16:45

Keynote Speaker 3

Dr Raj Persaud

Workplace survival skills or managing your manager because adulting is hard

As technicians, scientists and researchers we are driven by curiosity, innovation and the pursuit of knowledge. Our work is often exhilarating, pushing the boundaries of what's known. However, this high-stakes, competitive and often solitary journey can also be incredibly demanding. The pressures of grants, deadlines and the myriad challenges of scientific inquiry can take a significant toll.

Today, as a consultant psychiatrist who has observed and supported countless professionals navigating complex work environments, I want to share some vital workplace survival skills with you. These aren't just about coping; they're about thriving, maintaining your well-being, and sustaining a fulfilling career in science. Think of these as psychological toolkits for resilience and effectiveness.

<https://drrajpersaud.com/>

2025 Key Sponsors:



Workshop 1 (11:15 - 11:55)

Location: Room 109

Workshop Title

ACCES: An accessible evolutionary framework for optimising just about anything



Dan Rhymer and Aaron Wiggin

The University of Birmingham

themselves, and b) use the simulations to optimise anything you can model! The workshop will provide an overview of the software, some example applications, and an introduction to the underlying code, so that you can try it for yourself.

About the workshop

In this workshop, we will demonstrate the use of a unique, free, open source software (ACCES: Automatic Characterisation and Calibration using Evolutionary Simulation) which allows the coupling of evolutionary algorithms with numerical simulation software to a) optimise the simulations

Workshop 2 (11:15 - 11:55)

Location: Room 119

Workshop Title

How to use AI to leverage the benefits of immersive learning on any device - from tablets, to XR headsets, to immersive rooms



Madison Stoneburner

ThingLink on behalf of Academia - the technology group

About the workshop

In partnership with Academia, Madison Stoneburner from ThingLink will explore ways to modernise learning materials (such as PDFs or slide decks) to make them more interactive, engaging and accessible to all learners, on all devices. Designed for both education and business, ThingLink allows users to build rich, visual experiences such as interactive images, virtual tours, branched scenarios, and even VR/AR simulations – all without any coding knowledge.

By the end of the session, you'll understand how ThingLink can modernise and enhance learning design, support hybrid and self-paced learning, and make content more accessible and engaging for today's learners. Please feel free to sign up ahead of time for a personalised demo at our stand by emailing Yan at Academia: yan.gilbert-miguet@academia.co.uk.

Workshop Delivered by:



Workshop 3 (11:15 - 11:55)

Location: Room M208

Workshop Title

NTDC HETT Technician Career & Promotion Pathways; introducing the new National Education Technical Professional Pathway



Dr Sara Bacon and Dr Ian Tidmarsh

National Technician Development Centre & Institute of Science and Technology

About the workshop

NTDC will update on Career and Promotional pathway collaborative activity including highlighting the benefits and recommendations from the ETP national working group report. We will also highlight early success.

Workshop 4 (11:15 - 11:55)

Location: Room M209

Workshop Title

Upskilling Through Apprenticeships: Taking Control of Your Technical Career



Tyler Harvey-Cowlshaw

Science Apprenticeship Forum

About the workshop

This workshop is designed for current technicians who are curious about how apprenticeships can support their career development. Whether you're just starting out or looking to upskill, we'll explore how apprenticeships can provide structured learning, professional recognition, and new opportunities for progression. Drawing on lived experience, we'll cover practical steps for finding the right apprenticeship, making the most of your training, and aligning it with long-term goals. Come along to discover how an apprenticeship could be the next step in your technical journey.



Workshop 5 (11:15 - 11:55)

Location: Room M218

**Dr Gabor Radics**

LabCup

Workshop Delivered by:

**Workshop Title****Inventory Management: An Easier And Safer Way To Store And Use****About the workshop**

In this presentation, Gabor will show you how to use technology, to do inventory management much quicker with less administration. While you gain more free time, your laboratory will become a much safer and compliant place to work.

Gabor will also touch the following subjects and many more:

- Expiry date management,
- Quick stock taking,
- Automatic data sourcing and validation,
- Compliance reporting (CWC, CMR, peroxide forming chemicals, etc.),
- Master database management,
- Compatibility storage,
- Internal web shop for stock room managers.

Workshop 6 (11:15 - 11:55)

Location: L02 - Lecture Theatre

**Allison Hunter**

Imperial College London

Workshop Title**Innovative Sustainability: Bridging Science and the Arts for a Greener Future****About the workshop**

In the last 10 years sustainability has come out from the shadows and is now a mainstream and dynamic consideration across many disciplines. This talk will review the current cross sector landscape and frameworks and the many roles that technicians have had in innovating and shaping sustainable practices across these industries. It can be by making those considerations in what we buy, how we use it and remove it to reduce carbon footprints, influencing behaviour changes in staff and students, various resource efficiencies or designing novel process or procedures. Here, we will look at what does it take to get these implemented and what are the barriers?

Workshop 7 (12:00 - 12:40)

Location: Room 119

Workshop Title

StageLinc: Connecting Technical Skills to the Technical Challenges of a Region



About the workshop

StageLinc are an events and immersive experiences production company working from concept to production to create memorable experiences across the East Midlands and the wider UK. A commercial spin-out from the courses at the University of Lincoln School of Creative Arts, StageLinc draws on the considerable professional, industry and academic experience of the staff across the school to deliver high-quality

events, while also directly supporting both undergraduate and postgraduate students in gaining industry skills. In this workshop, discover more about how StageLinc is working across the UK. Join Rachel Baynton (Associate Professor - Creative Engagement Producer, University of Lincoln) to explore your own regional challenges, technological solutions, and avenues for industry skills development.

Rachel Baynton & Dr Darren Page

University of Lincoln on behalf of Creative UK

Workshop 8 (12:00 - 12:40)

Location: Room M208

Workshop Title

The Accreditation Edge: Real Stories from Creative Tech Trailblazers



About the workshop

What does it really take to earn professional accreditation in the creative technologies - and why does it matter?

This dynamic workshop/panel discussion brings together experienced professionals who've navigated the process firsthand. Expect honest reflections, practical tips, and a closer look at how accreditation not only validates expertise but opens doors to collaboration, recognition, and career growth. Whether you're just curious or ready to apply, this session will spark ideas and confidence to take the next step.

Daniella Webb, Jodie Wingham, and Riz Iftakhar

Birmingham City University

Workshop 9 (12:00 - 12:40)

Location: L02 - Lecture Theatre



Gemma Carter-Morris

Next Steps Consulting

Workshop Title

Career Alignment in a Changing World: Aligning Personal Aspirations with Organisational Needs

About the workshop

In an ever changing world of work, clarity and alignment are more important than ever. This interactive session will guide individuals through the 'Alignment model', a framework that helps to explore the relationships between what you want from your career and what organisations need from their people.

We will cover:

- Your wants and needs - what you need to thrive in your career
- Your offer - what strengths, skills and experience you bring to the table
- Organisational needs - how the workplace is changing and what skills are most in demand now and in the future
- Personal development planning - how can you future proof your career and move towards where you want to be

The session will also explore practical ways to build resilience and adapt positively to change so you can feel more confident navigating transition and thriving in changing landscapes.

Workshop 10 (12:00 - 12:40)

Location: Room M209

Workshop Title

Chemical and Safety Sheet Management



Chris Williams and Kathryn Draper

Siso Software Ltd

About the workshop

This talk will demonstrate new features currently in development that are aimed to make the management of Chemicals and Safety Sheets a lot easier to organise and track in one system.

This is a chance to see what we have in development but also our plans for the future.

Workshop Delivered by:



Workshop 11 (12:00 - 12:40)

Location: Room M218

Workshop Title

Selling Unwanted Lab Equipment with UniGreenScheme – Launched by a UoB Student in 2015



Michael McLeod and Benjamin Glazier

UniGreenScheme

About the workshop

In 2015, while studying at the University of Birmingham, Michael McLeod helped clear out a lab – and watched valuable equipment thrown away. Frustrated, he launched UniGreenScheme: a service that helps universities resell unwanted lab equipment safely and effectively. Now used by over 70 institutions, the service prevents over 5 tonnes of waste

each week and has saved the sector more than £4 million to date. This workshop will take a practical, behind-the-scenes look at how UniGreenScheme works – covering equipment testing, logistics, and resale. With real university case studies, it highlights how lab teams can unlock space, savings and sustainability through reuse.

Workshop Delivered by: **UniGreenScheme**

Workshop 12 (12:00 - 12:40)

Location: Room 109

Workshop Title

What is Deep Learning?



Dr Richard Saldanha

Institute of Science & Technology and Queen Mary University of London

About the workshop

Deep learning has become one of those all encompassing buzzwords but primarily it's about the use of neural networks (generally, non-trivial ones). This Workshop will examine the basics of neural networks – including model fitting, model components and architectures – together with a brief look at how they are used in large language model deployment. The aim of the Workshop is for attendees to gain a better understanding of what underpins this widely implemented class of model. All are welcome, novices and experts alike.



Dr Helen Sharman, CMG OBE FIScT HonFRSC Technical Conference Chair & IST President

Helen Sharman, CMG, OBE, HonFRSC is a British chemist and space technician, who became the first British person, first Western European woman and first woman in space, as well as the first woman to visit the Mir space station, in May 1991.

Helen started her career with a degree in chemistry from the University of Sheffield before working in industry for GEC and Mars Confectionery. Helen then trained at the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre, becoming the first British astronaut when she launched into space on board a Soyuz spacecraft on 18 May 1991. Helen became a science communicator after her space flight.

Helen started a new career in management, working at the National Physical Laboratory and at Kingston University London, before moving to Imperial College in the summer of 2015.

Helen is the IST President and is an advocate for technical staff all over the world.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPEAKERS AND SUPPORTERS

The Institute of Science & Technology is very grateful for the support from our professional speakers and amazing supporters, who truly do make the day a brilliant success.

The thoughts, opinions and expertise are their own and they have put a great deal of time of detail into the workshops to give delegates new and interesting insights, into their own work or into something they are particularly interested in.

Fancy being involved with our Conference in 2026? We would love to hear from you if you are interested in delivering a workshop next year. Please contact us on office@istonline.org.uk.



Professor Tracy Harwood

Professor Tracy Harwood is a leading researcher in creative technologies and digital innovation at De Montfort University. As Director of the Art AI Festival, she explores how emerging technologies – particularly AI – are transforming creative practice, culture, and design. Her interdisciplinary work bridges academia, industry, and the arts, with a focus on responsible innovation and the human impact of technology. Professor Harwood is widely published and known for making complex technological shifts accessible, inspiring, and actionable for diverse audiences.



Professor Kit Windows-Yule

Kit Windows-Yule is a two-time Royal Academy of Engineering Industrial Fellow, a Royal Society Industry Fellow, Director of Innovation for the University of Birmingham's College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, Acting Director of the Baskerville Tier 2 Supercomputer, and Founder and Chief Scientific Officer of AI startup EvoPhase. He is also a Research Ethics Reviewer for the Alan Turing Institute, a role which advises on the ethical implications of work performed by and through the Turing Institute, the UK's national institute for data science and artificial intelligence, and an advisor for BridgeAI. His research interests concern the dynamics of particulate, fluid, and multiphase systems, and the development of novel experimental, numerical, and AI methodologies through which these systems can be explored and optimised. He works closely with numerous industrial partners in the chemical (Johnson Matthey, FMC), food (Mondelez, Jacobs Douwe Egberts, PepsiCo), pharmaceutical (AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson), and other (AWE, IFPEN, Rolls Royce, Unilever) sectors, applying these techniques to solve significant open problems in their respective fields.



Dr Raj Persaud

Dr. Raj Persaud is a highly acclaimed Consultant Psychiatrist, having honed his skills at leading institutions such as the Bethlem Royal, Maudsley and Johns Hopkins. His academic depth is notable, with a First Class Honours in Psychology complementing his medical background, alongside eight additional degrees and diplomas, including a Master's in Statistics. A recipient of prestigious honours including the Royal College of Psychiatrists Research Medal and the Osler Medal, Dr. Persaud is celebrated for his groundbreaking research and significant public engagement, earning him a Fellowship from the Royal College of Psychiatrists.



Sara BACON

National Technician Development Centre

As the Centre Manager for the National Technician Development Centre, Sara works with a core team and a range of specialist advisers to help Universities to create a sustainable future for their technical staff. This includes training courses, CPD and networking events, career pathways framework and a bespoke skills, roles and responsibilities survey. After completing a PhD in Bioinorganic Chemistry Sara moved into industry working for Croda Chemicals as a research chemist and then as a product manager in the research and development section. Sara then became a Data Manager where she managed a team on the implementation of a new SAP system to increase efficiency and improve productivity within the company.



Rachel BAYNTON

University of Lincoln on behalf of Creative UK

Rachel Baynton is a multi-disciplinary artist, producer, and Associate Professor at the University of Lincoln School of Creative Arts, where she has developed and leads their Arts and Cultural Management programmes. Her practice centres on collaboration, co-creation, and contemporary cultural production across performance, digital media, and socially engaged work, with major commissioning partners including the NHS, RAF, and BBC.

Rachel is also Co-Artistic Director of Proto-type Theatre, known for politically engaged performance, and holds positions as Associate Chair of UK New Artists, member of Creative UK's National Council, and a Trustee of Zest Theatre.'



Gemma CARTER-MORRIS

Next Steps Consulting

Gemma Carter-Morris is Managing Director of Next Steps Consulting. Gemma worked in Higher Education for 14 year before joining Next Steps Consulting. Gemma is a qualified coach, wellbeing coach and DiSC practitioner and is passionate about working with teams and individuals allowing them to be the best they can be and reaching their potential. Gemma delivers management and leadership development programmes, wellbeing training and career coaching and specialises in supporting individuals whilst going through change and transition and building personal resilience.



Kathryn DRAPER

Siso Software Ltd

Kathryn works as part of a highly experienced UK based software house established over 20 years ago. Our focus is on developing and refining products that address the unique and intricate requirements of booking systems for industries such as higher education, media, science & technology, and healthcare.

We work hard to understand your objectives and current issues, creating a bespoke configuration and implementation plan with you. This ensures you get the maximum benefits rapidly and effectively.



Benjamin GLAZIER

UniGreenScheme

Ben Glazier is the co-founder of UniGreenScheme. He started the service whilst his business partner; Michael, was working as a post-graduate student at the University of Birmingham.

Since the launch of UniGreenScheme nearly ten years ago, the service has grown from bootstrap start-up to now employing 30 staff across two operational sites. Each year, every UniGreenScheme team member prevents the equivalent electrical waste of throwing away 530 working microwaves, or saves the equivalent carbon emissions of planting 550 trees.



Tyler HARVEY-COWLISHAW [Science Apprenticeship Forum](#)

Tyler Harvey-Cowlshaw is an award-winning science apprentice and passionate advocate for vocational pathways in STEM. She is the founder of the Science Apprenticeship Forum and currently serves as Assistant Education Officer for the IST. Tyler works at the University of Nottingham as a Senior Research Technician and has undertaken a range of apprenticeships over the past nine years. She has received national recognition for her work, including the RSB Apprentice of the Year Award and the Science Council's Apprenticeship Ambassador Award.



Allison HUNTER [Imperial College London](#)

Allison Hunter, as Head of Technical Operations in the Department of Life Sciences, has had experience in lab sustainability since 2008. She initiated King's College London's very first lab sustainability project when the building she worked in had reached its power limit. In 2014, having identified a need for freezer sustainability, she was awarded HEFCE Catalyst Funding. This work, mainly on freezer energy savings, was recognized by the first King's Sustainability Award in 2014 and an S-Lab Making a Difference Award in 2015. She has chaired a lab sustainability workshop in 2019: Certification and Sustainable Laboratories (see Pillars – Irish Green Labs for links) and presented on Autoclaves - My Green Lab.



Michael MCLEOD [UniGreenScheme](#)

Michael McLeod is the co-founder of UniGreenScheme. He started the service whilst he was working as a post-graduate student at the University of Birmingham. Since the launch of UniGreenScheme nearly ten years ago, the service has grown from bootstrap

start-up to now employing 30 staff across two operational sites. Each year, every UniGreenScheme team member prevents the equivalent electrical waste of throwing away 530 working microwaves, or saves the equivalent carbon emissions of planting 550 trees.



Dr Darren PAGE [University of Lincoln on behalf of Creative UK](#)

Darren is a Senior Lecturer and Stage Manager who has been teaching in Higher Education for over ten years. Darren was part of the original team that wrote the BA Hons Technical Theatre & Stage Management course for the University of Lincoln, overseeing the current validation of the course as programme lead between 2022 and 2025. Darren's practice is based on developing practice-lead pedagogy in stage management as well as wider quality in learning across the Creative Arts in Higher Education. Darren is currently the Deputy Director of Teaching & Learning for the Lincoln School of Creative Arts.



Dr Gabor RADICS [LabCup](#)

Dr. Gabor Radics PhD, DGSA. Gabor holds a PhD degree in chemistry and over 20 years of firsthand experience in academia and in the pharmaceutical industry. LabCup is a leading laboratory management platform designed to simplify chemical tracking, inventory control, and compliance. It helps research teams improve safety, reduce costs, and streamline day-to-day operations through smart digital solutions.



Dan RHYMER

The University of Birmingham

Daniel Rhymer MEng AMIChemE is a Research Fellow at the University of Birmingham and a multinational award-winning conference presenter. His work focuses on advancing ball-milling research and exploring its applications within sustainable process development. With a strong commitment to addressing global challenges, Daniel aims to bring innovative, practical solutions to industry and academia alike. Passionate about driving the new industrial revolution, he works to harness fresh approaches that balance technological progress with environmental and social responsibility.



Dr Richard SALDANHA IST & Queen Mary University of London

Dr Richard Saldanha is an expert in both statistical machine learning and quantitative finance. He is involved in postgraduate teaching in the School of Economics and Finance in machine learning, finance and econometrics in a range of master's level courses. Prior to this, Richard worked in the City of London for over 20 years and was involved in risk, trading and fund management activities at various large established financial institutions. Richard holds a doctorate (DPhil) in graph theory and multivariate statistics from the University of Oxford. He is a Fellow and Chartered Statistician (CStat) of the Royal Statistical Society; a Science Council Chartered Scientist (CSci); and a Fellow and Advanced Practitioner in Artificial Intelligence of the Institute of Science and Technology - FIScT APAl.



Madison STONEBURNER ThingLink on behalf of Academia

Madison Stoneburner is a skilled account and marketing professional with over 7 years of experience in business development and people management. Since joining ThingLink in 2023, she has leveraged her expertise in account management to strengthen client relationships and enhance customer satisfaction.



Dr Ian TIDMARSH Institute of Science and Technology

Ian has 16 years' experience in HE management and senior leadership roles. Ian has held both academic and professional services roles, the latter spanning technical, infrastructure, people and change. Ian is Strategic Lead at the National Technician Development Centre. He leads the Centre's Career Pathways work where he has guided over 70 universities to review their organisational structures including partnering reorganisations. Prior to that, Ian was Career Pathways Project Lead on the Technical Development and Modernisation Project (2014-2017) delivering the Higher Education Technical Taxonomy (HETT) Framework. Ian is also Deputy Director of Technical Services at Manchester Metropolitan University with responsibility for both strategy and operations. Ian takes a coaching approach to development, firmly believing that everyone should have the opportunity to reach their full potential. Ian is an Associate Consultant at Next Steps Consulting Ltd. with experience of coaching clients across a range of sector spanning education, government, finance and retail. Ian is a Fellow of the IST and a member of the IST Executive.



Daniella WEBB

Birmingham City University

Daniella is a Learning and Organisational Development Officer at Birmingham City University, supporting the Technician Commitment by driving professional development and recognition for technical staff. She previously worked as a Casting Technician at BCU and as a 3D Print and CAD Technician at Weston Beamor, building strong expertise in technical processes and digital manufacturing. A graduate of Sheffield Hallam University with a BA in Metalwork and Jewellery, Daniella combines hands-on technical experience with a commitment to advancing organisational learning and development. Daniella is joined by her colleagues Ana Rutter, David Massey, Jodie Wingham and Liz Iftakhar.



Aaron WIGGIN

The University of Birmingham

Aaron Wiggin is a researcher at the University of Birmingham, working on innovative computational tools that make complex optimisation problems more accessible. He is a co-presenter of ACCES (Automatic Characterisation and Calibration using Evolutionary Simulation), a free and open-source software framework that couples evolutionary algorithms with numerical simulations. Aaron's focus is on making advanced optimisation methods widely usable across disciplines, helping researchers and practitioners apply evolutionary approaches to solve real-world challenges and explore new possibilities.



Chris WILLIAMS

Siso Software Ltd

Chris is part of the SISO software team. We are a highly experienced UK based software house established over 20 years ago. Our focus is on developing and refining products that address the unique and intricate requirements of booking systems for industries such as higher education, media, science & technology, and healthcare. We work hard to understand your objectives and current issues, creating a bespoke configuration and implementation plan with you. This ensures you get the maximum benefits rapidly and effectively.

Thank You

Thank you again to all those who have carried out a workshop or delivered a keynote this year at the Conference. The thoughts, opinions and expertise are their own and they have put a great deal of time of detail into their talks to give delegates new and interesting insights, into their own work or into something they are particularly interested in. If you are interested in being involved with our Conference in 2026, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the IST office by emailing office@istonline.org.uk.





Academia

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Academia combine next generation technology with cost effective, sustainable solutions and managed services that change the way we work. We enhance teaching and learning experiences with great products and services, we also ensure businesses get technology that's scaleable and improves the user experience. We enable the public sector to get the very best from their IT and we innovate responsibly to ensure a sustainable future for everyone.

Our range of exceptional services and solutions will help run your IT operations better and in a more cost-effective way. Whatever your service requirement, our team of experts will work with you to resolve your challenges.

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Siso Software

www.siso.co.uk

Email: info@siso.co.uk

Siso Software are a highly experienced UK based software house established over 20 years ago.

Their focus is on developing and refining niche products that address the unique and intricate requirements of a booking system for industries such as higher education, media, science & technology, and healthcare.

Siso work hard to understand your objectives and current issues, creating a bespoke configuration and implementation plan with you. This ensures you get the maximum benefits rapidly and effectively.

Social Media:  [company/siso-software](https://www.linkedin.com/company/siso-software)



Uni
Green
Scheme

Uni Green Scheme


www.unigreenscheme.co.uk

Email: info@unigreenscheme.co.uk

UniGreenScheme help UK universities and the wider scientific industry reduce waste and consume resources sustainably to enable research organisations to thrive in an increasingly resource-constrained world.

They have experienced first-hand the difficulties involved in disposing of unused or surplus laboratory equipment. Currently, the most common route for equipment disposal is...well, disposal.

They offer a hassle-free, more sustainable alternative. By offering a service where they collect, store and resell equipment for reuse, preventing the needless disposal of equipment - whilst helping you to achieve your environmental targets by reducing your carbon footprint and even generate revenue by offering a share of the profit.

Social Media:  [company/unigreenscheme](https://www.linkedin.com/company/unigreenscheme)



labcup
www.labcup.net

LabCup

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THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS



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Because there is a limit on the size of some of the technical talks / workshops we will ask you to choose your 3 talks / workshops (from each session) before you attend on the day, full delegate details will be sent before the event to all delegates. Please reply promptly to secure a place on a workshop. We cannot guarantee a place will be available on the day without pre-booking.

For professionally registered delegates (RSciTech, RSci, CSci), and also those delegates considering applying for professional registration, the conference and its workshops will contribute significantly to your professional and personal development (PPD). The programme includes 2 highly motivational talks from keynote speakers, plus 3 technical workshops (chosen from the 18 available) throughout the day.

The conference also provides opportunities to participate through an image competition, networking and supplier / manufacturer stands. All these will add considerably to your personal development, annual PPD score, and enhance your CV.

All delegates who attend the conference for the full day will receive a CPD certificate following the day.

CPD and Awards

The Institute of Science and Technology (IST) proudly works with many partners to ensure that there are plenty of CPD opportunities for technical staff and specialists. Attendance at the conference contributes to your annual CPD as well as upskilling in the workshops, networking and also facilitating in discussions in the workshop sessions.

We will be holding several awards and prizes over the Conference which we are actively encouraging individuals to take part in or nominate individuals.

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