



Technician **Commitment**

Technician Commitment and the UK ITSS
Progress, Impact and Alignment

Simon Breeden

 @SWBreedden  @techscommit

Technicians make it happen



Technician Commitment

Staff Team

- Kelly Vere MBE - Technician Commitment Programme Director
- Simon Breeden - Associate Lead (on a part time secondment from the University of York)
- Clare Stevenson - Associate Lead (on a part time secondment from the John Innes Centre)
- Carly Dellar - Project Manager
- Loren Querickiol - Marketing and Communications Officer
- Holly Chetan-Welsh – Communications Consultant (Science Council)
- Plus support from the Gatsby Foundation and Science Council teams



Technician Commitment

What is the Technician Commitment?

The Technician Commitment Signatory Form

The Science Council is working with partners to ensure greater visibility and recognition for technicians in higher education. The Technician Commitment has been developed to address the key issues affecting the technical community in academia and research. In becoming a signatory to the Science Council's Technician Commitment, University of York hereby commits to take action across five key areas:

- Visibility**
Ensure that all technicians within the organisation are identifiable and that the contribution of technicians is visible within and beyond the institution
- Recognition**
Support technicians to gain recognition through professional registration
- Career Development**
Enable career progression opportunities for technicians through the provision of clear, documented career pathways
- Sustainability**
Ensure the future sustainability of technical skills across the organisation and that technical expertise is fully utilised

Evaluating Impact
Regularly assess the impact of actions taken in support of the commitment to ensure their effectiveness

Signed: *Brian Fulton*
[name; position] Brian Fulton, Dean of the Faculty of Sciences
[institution name] University of York
[date] 7 April 2017

Nominated Institutional Lead
We hereby nominate Brian Fulton, Dean of the Faculty of Sciences as the lead contact for taking forward our commitment:
Email: brian.fulton@york.ac.uk
Phone: 01904 32 4241

Technicians make it happen

The Commitment includes 4 key areas:

- VISIBILITY**
Ensure that all technicians within the organisation are identifiable and that the contribution of technicians is visible within and beyond the institution
- RECOGNITION**
Support technicians to gain recognition through professional registration and external awards schemes
- CAREER DEVELOPMENT**
Enable career progression opportunities for technicians through the provision of clear, documented career pathways
- SUSTAINABILITY**
Ensure the future sustainability of technical skills across the organisation and that technical expertise is fully utilised

Explore the Technician Commitment

RESOURCES | LATEST NEWS | SIGNATORIES

5 DAYS AGO

This week saw ever conferences in higher research! Find the #PapinPri #HETS2021 he <https://t.co/Njr> Congratulations 🎉

Read more >

www.TechnicianCommitment.org.uk

Technician Commitment



PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE
Technician Commitment

#TechsCommit

VISIBILITY

Ensuring technicians are **visible** within and beyond higher education and research institutions



PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE
Technician Commitment

#TechsCommit

RECOGNITION

Supporting technicians to gain **recognition** through registration




PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE
Technician Commitment

#TechsCommit

DEVELOPMENT

Enabling career **progression** for technicians through clear pathways



PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE
Technician Commitment

#TechsCommit

SUSTAINABILITY

Safeguarding technical skills across the organisation by **using** and **developing** expertise

The UK Institute of Technical Skills & Strategy

A collaborative initiative by the sector for the sector

 @SWBreedon

THE
ROYAL
SOCIETY

 Universities
UK

IOP Institute of Physics

 ROYAL SOCIETY
OF CHEMISTRY

 National Centre
for Universities and Business

AdvanceHE

GW4

N8 RESEARCH
PARTNERSHIP

 Royal Society of
Biology

CRAC
The Career Development Organisation

 vitae
realising
the potential
of researchers

 GATSBY

 MI
TALENT

 MIDLANDS
INNOVATION

Technician **Commitment**

 University of
Nottingham
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

 Science
Council

T M U
TECHNICAL
MANAGERS
in Universities

Context



GOV.UK

Home > Education, training and skills > Further and higher education, skills and vocational training

Press release

£490 million skills training boost to help get more people into jobs

Multimillion pound investment to radically improve university and college facilities and provide better teaching for students.

The Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, said

- “ Investing in education and skills will unlock future growth, boost productivity and help build the skilled workforce of the future.
- “ That’s why we’re spending £490 million to support high-quality teaching and world class facilities in universities and colleges right across the country.
- “ Whether it’s in aerospace engineering or green tech, this funding will provide young people with the support they need to build a great career.”

Education Secretary Gillian Keegan said:

- “ This investment is about making sure students get the highest quality training in key subjects which are driving economic growth. That means access to top of the range facilities which prepare people for the workplace, filling skills gaps and levelling up the whole country.



George Freeman MP, Minister for Science, Technology, Innovation and Space.

As Minister for Science, Research & Innovation, it is more important than ever that Britain delivers a bold, optimistic and ambitious plan to realise our vision for the UK as both a science superpower and an innovation nation. We can and should be the world’s most innovative economy, inventing and adopting the new innovations and technologies that will solve the challenges of tomorrow.



Our strategic objectives provide the framework for how we will achieve our vision and realise our principles through world-class:



Technical Skills, Roles & Careers

- The whole research ecosystem of people, with diverse roles, are crucial to solving global challenges
- Technical roles are a vital part of that ecosystem yet traditionally experience a lack of visibility & recognition
- The UK has an identified shortage of technical skills and roles
- The technical community has an ageing population & EDI challenges
- If not addressed, this is a threat to achieving the % GDP increase in R&D



An Evolving Landscape

2017

Technician **Commitment**

Establish the Technician Commitment. It launches with 36 founding signatory institutions.

2018

Publish sector report:



Technician Commitment: One Year In

2019

Publish sector reports:



Technicians: Providing frontline and vital support for student health and wellbeing.



Equality, Diversity & Inclusion: A Technician Lens.

2020



Awarded Research England funding for TALENT – a £5M programme to advance status and opportunity for the technical community in UK higher education and research



Publish sector report: COVID-19: The Impact on Technicians in UK Higher Education & Research.



The government's UK Research and Development Roadmap launches, setting out the UK's vision and ambition for science, research and innovation (references Technician Commitment).

2021

Publish sector reports:



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: UK Technicians' Experiences During the Covid-19 Pandemic.



Funding Technical Staff in Research



The Role of Technicians in Knowledge Exchange: An explorative study



Technician Commitment: Progress and Impact



UKRI publish their Technician Commitment Action Plan



The government launch its R&D People and Culture Strategy, a vision and call to action to ensure people are recognised as being at the core of R&D.

2022

Publish sector report:



The TALENT Commission



Research Culture: A Technician Lens

Technician **Commitment**

Stands at over 110 signatory and supporter organisations

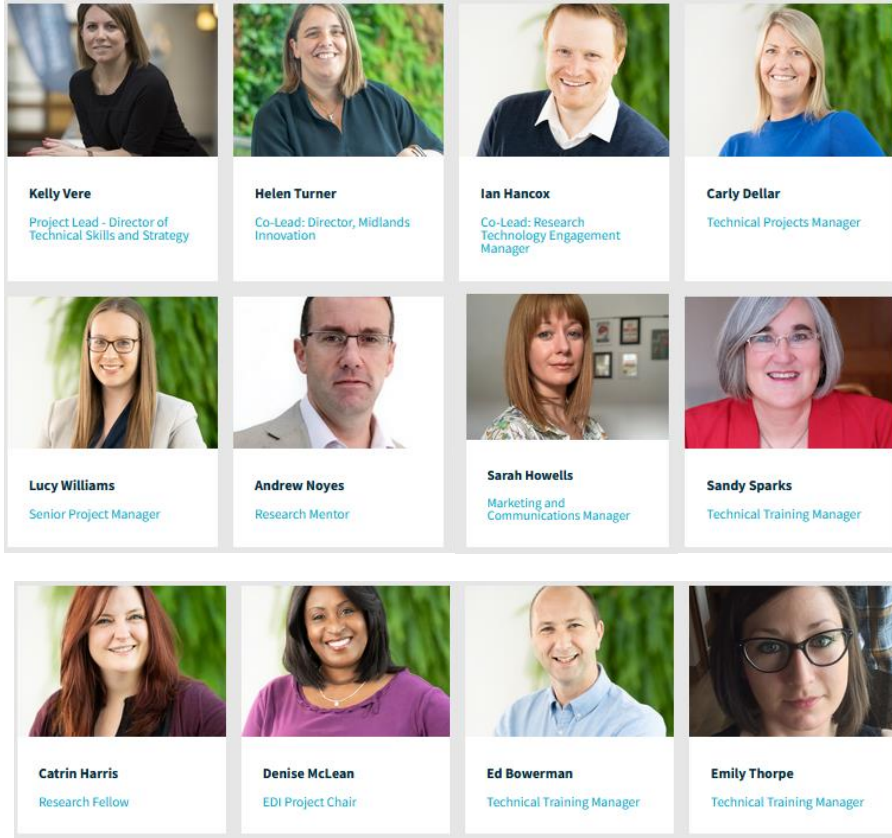
Increased sector awareness and engagement with the need to consider technical skills and roles strategically and drive culture change



**Research
England**



MI TALENT: advancing status & opportunity for technical talent



£4.9 million; 2020-2024



Programme Workstreams



Policy
commission

Strategic insight into technical
skills of the future

Culture
change
projects

Driving culture change for the
technical community

Training and
empowerment

Career development for
technicians through tailored
technical training

Programme Workstreams



Policy
commission

Strategic insight into technical
skills of the future

Culture
change
projects

Driving culture change for the
technical community

Training and
empowerment

Career development for
technicians through tailored
technical training

The TALENT Board of Commissioners



Sir John Holman
Chair of the TALENT
Commission



Nigel Towers
Head of Strategy, Marketing and Sales,
Thales Alenia Space UK



Rory Duncan
Director, Talent and Skills, UKRI



Helen Pain
Chief Executive,
Royal Society of Chemistry



Anne-Marie Coriart
Freelancer



Kirsty Edgar
Head of Research for the School of
Geography, Earth and Environmental
Sciences, University of Birmingham



Nishan Canagarajah
President & Vice-Chancellor,
University of Leicester



Tim Savage
Director of Technical Learning,
University for the Creative Arts



James Hetherington
Director, Centre for Advanced Research
Computing, University College London



Dame Athene Donald
Master of Churchill College,
University of Cambridge



Mat Beardsley
Precision Development Facility
Manager, RAL Space



Paul Lewis
Professor of Political Economy,
King's College London



Dobra Humphris
Vice-Chancellor, University of Brighton
and Chair of University Alliance



Jennifer Allen
Business Manager,
Peridot Partners



Steven Hill
Director of Research,
Research England



Nicola Atkinson
Isotope Support Scientist,
British Geological Survey



Rhys Morgan
Director of Engineering and Education,
Royal Academy of Engineering



Dame Helen Atkinson
Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Aerospace,
Transport, Manufacturing,
Cranfield University



Jhoen Ahmed
Head of Technical Services,
Aston University



Ray Chung
Head of University IT Support,
Loughborough University

Who are they?

Technicians & technical Staff

Academic staff

VCs & PVCs

Directors, CEOs, & sector leaders

Representatives from...

Higher Education Providers

Research Institutes

Funding Bodies

Learned Societies & Academies

Industry

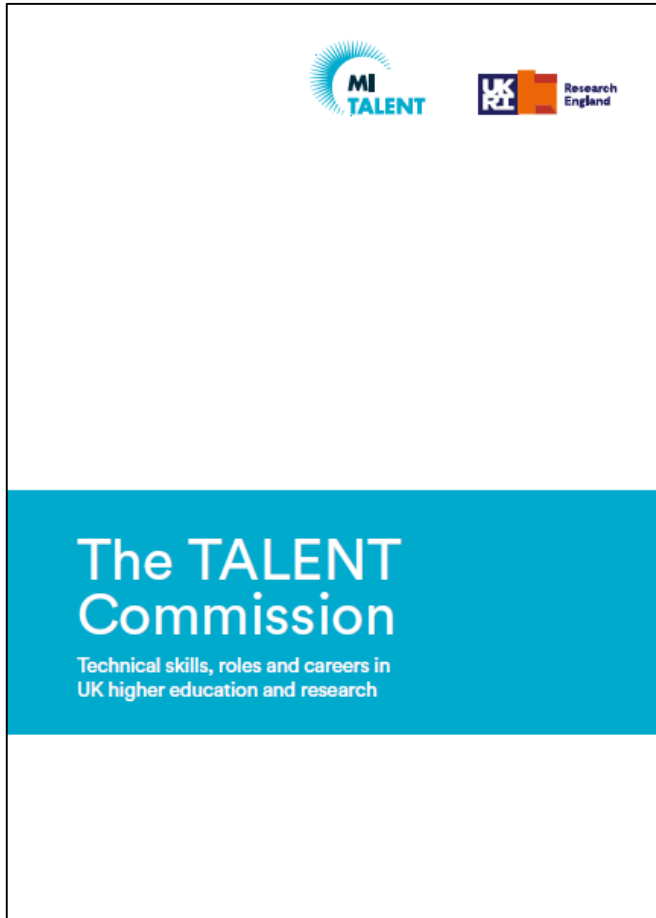
Charitable Foundations

STEM, Creative Arts, IT, etc

Key Themes Explored



The TALENT Commission report



- A landmark policy report
- Research findings & evidence based recommendations
- Launched virtually in Feb 2022
- Parliamentary reception at the House of Lords in May 2022



Reception so far

https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/ukri-research-england-talent-commission-report-technical-skills-70%

AdvanceHE About Us News, Views and Resources Membership Consultancy + Enhancement Programmes + Events Teaching + Learning Leadership + Management Equality, Diversity + Inclusion Effective Governance

← Back to Knowledge Hub

Governance News Alert

UKRI/Research England TALENT Commission report: Technical skills, roles and careers in UK higher education and research

Published: 03 February 2022

The TALENT Commission was launched in July 2020 to look at technical skills, roles and careers across UK higher education and research and is part of wider work by Research England to advance the status and opportunities of the technical community. The report is the result of 20 months of research and stakeholder engagement, including the largest survey of UK technical staff working in higher education and research ever undertaken, a range of focus groups and additional commissioned research projects on topics including funding and future technologies. The report outlines a set of principles and 16 recommendations, with further specifics to target stakeholder groups.

The full report can be found [here](#).

At a glance

https://www.ses.ac.uk/the-talent-commission-report/

SCIENCE & ENGINEERING SOUTH EAST

Home About Focus Latest Case studies Get involved

The TALENT Commission Report



https://www.researchprofessionalnews.com/rr-news-uk-research-councils-2022-2-role-of-technicians-in-teaching-and-research-underplayed/

*ResearchProfessional News

UK Europe USA Australia & NZ Africa World Opinion Funding Insight Covid-19 Funding Opportunities

https://gw4.ac.uk/opinion/what-do-talent-commission-report-findings-mean-for-the-future-of-technicians-a-gw4-response/

GW4

About Research and Innovation Talent and Skills GW4 Funding Opportunities

← Back to Opinion

WHAT DO TALENT COMMISSION REPORT FINDINGS MEAN FOR THE FUTURE OF TECHNICIANS? – A GW4 RESPONSE /

February 22, 2022



Sabrina Fairchild

Dr Sabrina Fairchild, GW4 Alliance Talent and Skills Manager, welcomes the TALENT Commission report, which has gathered new strategic insights into the UK's technical workforce in higher education and research.

https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/dont-exclude-technicians-decision-making-universities-told



PROFESSIONAL CAMPUS JOBS EVENTS RANKINGS STUDENT SC

Don't exclude technicians from decision-making, universities told

'Unsung heroes' of UK research are too often denied seat at the table, says major review of technical staff and skills

February 1, 2022

Jack Grove

Twitter: @jgro_the



UK Europe USA Australia & NZ Africa World Opinion Funding Insight Covid-19 Funding Opportunities

Role of technicians in teaching and research 'underplayed'

By Chris Parr

Share f t in e



Talent Commission calls for better career opportunities for technical staff

https://www.hepi.ac.uk/2022/03/10/transforming-the-uk-technical-talent-an-opportunity-for-the-he-and-research-sectors/



The UK's

News Blog Publications Events Lectures

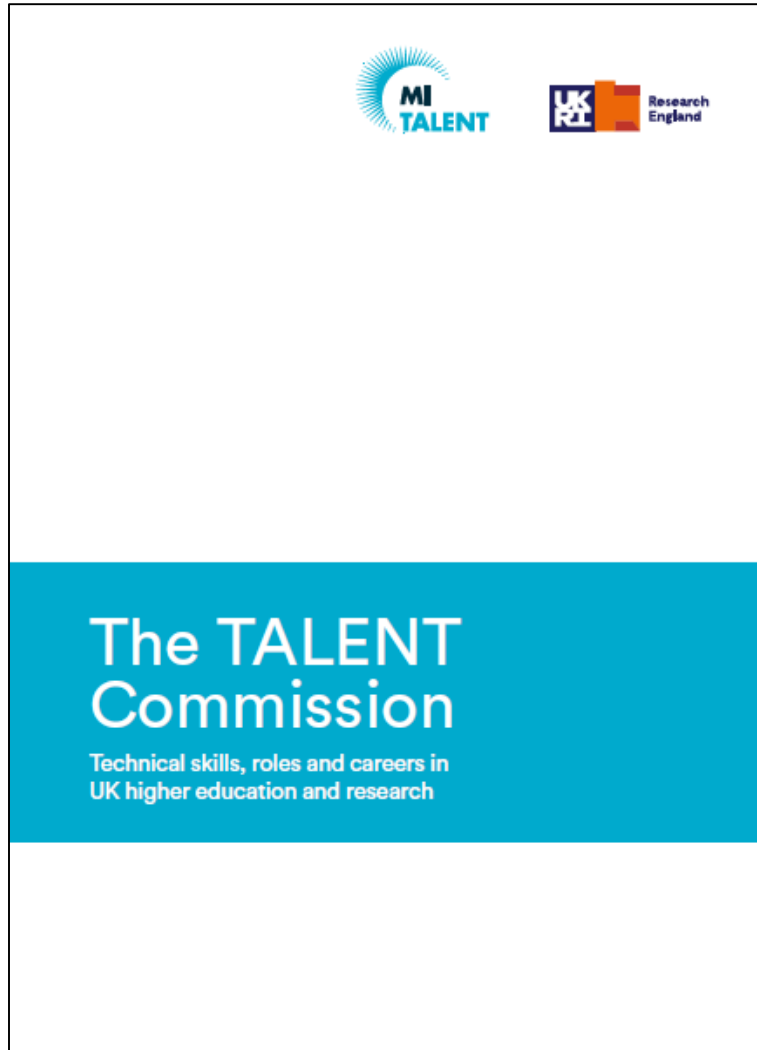
Transforming the UK's Technical Talent: An opportunity for the HE and research sectors

10 March 2022

By Debra Humphris

Debra Humphris is Vice-Chancellor of the University of Brighton and was one of the Commissioners on the UKRI-Research England funded TALENT Commission, a national policy commission delivering strategic insight into the future of the UK's technical talent.

Collaboration isn't always easy in a competitive sector. But in the current higher education and research landscape, more strategic thinking by institutions, funders and policymakers



Recommendation 16:

“The TALENT Commission advises the creation of a new collaborative entity, provisionally to be called the UK Institute for Technical Skills & Strategy [working title] that builds on the multi-stakeholder approach of the Technician Commitment, to represent and provide a conduit to the technical community, advising government, sector initiatives, funding bodies and other organisations. We advise that the new entity works closely with the professional bodies and membership organisations to which technical staff belong to ensure connectivity, voice and visibility for the technical community.”

An Evolving Landscape

2017

Technician Commitment

Establish the Technician Commitment. It launches with 36 founding signatory institutions.

2018

Publish sector report:



Technician Commitment: One Year In

2019

Publish sector reports:



Technicians: Providing frontline and vital support for student health and wellbeing.



Equality, Diversity & Inclusion: A Technician Lens.

2020



Awarded Research England funding for TALENT – a £5M programme to advance status and opportunity for the technical community in UK higher education and research



Publish sector report: COVID-19: The Impact on Technicians in UK Higher Education & Research.



The government's UK Research and Development Roadmap launches, setting out the UK's vision and ambition for science, research and innovation (references Technician Commitment).

2021

Publish sector reports:



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: UK Technicians' Experiences During the Covid-19 Pandemic.



Funding Technical Staff in Research



The Role of Technicians in Knowledge Exchange: An explorative study



Technician Commitment: Progress and Impact

UKRI publish their Technician Commitment Action Plan

The government launch its R&D People and Culture Strategy, a vision and call to action to ensure people are recognised as being at the core of R&D.

2022

Publish sector report:



The TALENT Commission



Research Culture: A Technician Lens

Technician Commitment

Stands at over 110 signatory and supporter organisations

2023

Publish sector report:



Economic Benefits of implementing TALENT Commission recommendations



Awarded Research England funding to establish ITSS - £5.5M



Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

EPSRC Strategic Technical platform call (£6M)

Increased sector awareness and engagement with the need to consider technical skills and roles strategically and drive culture change



UK Research and Innovation @UKRI_News · 6h

Technicians are essential to research & innovation. Through @ResEngland, we're pleased to support the new UK Institute of Technical Skills and Strategy @UniofNottingham.

More: mitalent.ac.uk/UK-ITSS #UKITSS

"The Institute of Technical Skills and Strategy will build on the great work of our technical community and Technician Commitment leads across the UK by providing advocacy and strategic leadership for the diverse technical community.

"Technicians, technologists, specialists and related roles across the Research & Innovation sector are vital to our strategy to create a diverse and inclusive system, supporting and enabling individuals, and the UK, to reach their full potential."

- Melanie Welham, UKRI Executive Champion for People, Culture & Talent.



Research England @ResEngland · 11h

Technicians are vital to the UK **research** & innovation system. We're pleased to be contributing to enhancing skills and developing careers through our support of the new national Institute of Technical Skills and Strategy @UniofNottingham - mitalent.ac.uk/UK-ITSS #UKITSS

"I'm pleased that Research England funding is supporting the new UK Institute of Technical Skills and Strategy.

"The Institute will enhance the skills base for technicians, help to raise the visibility of their vital contribution to UK research & innovation, and support their career development, and tackle a shortage of technicians.

"I look forward to seeing the impact the ITSS will have for technicians – from museum archivists right through to space technologists."

- Professor Dame Jessica Corner, Executive Chair of Research England



**Research
England**

**£5.5 million Investment to establish new
UK Institute for Technical Skills & Strategy**



Study A

University of

Sir Colin Cam

Home

Press releases

Press release

2019

2018

2017

2016

2015

Blog

Feedback form

Videos

Expertise for

Meet the team



Image: Flickr / Simon Walker

National Institute of Technical Skills and Strategy to support UK research and innovation launched

By **Reece Goodall**

Mar. 23, 2023

Posted in News

The UK is set to welcome a new £5.5 million national institute, with the aim of augmenting the country's technical capability and capacity across academia, research, education, and innovation. The initiative seeks to enable the UK to become a global powerhouse in science, engineering, and creative industries.



UK INSTITUTE FOR
TECHNICAL
SKILLS & STRATEGY

Our Vision

The UK is a global leader in science, engineering, and the creative industries, enabled by its technical capability and capacity across higher education, research and innovation, and technical careers are recognised, developed, respected and aspired to.



Our Mission

To accelerate and fulfil the potential of UK technical skills and careers across higher education, research and innovation.

ITSS will provide insight, influence policy, inspire innovation, foster integration, promote international leadership, strengthen industry connections, and ensure the long-term sustainability of technical skills and careers.



A Collaborative Approach

- A multi-disciplinary team with a strong track record in shaping, leading and delivering progress on this emerging agenda
- Academic, policy and community building expertise across the team
- A solid, cohesive and connected partnership, committed to working across the sector to deliver change
- Advisory Board comprised of sector stakeholders
- ITSS Technical Council to embed a culture of technical leadership

THE
**ROYAL
SOCIETY**



IOP Institute of Physics



AdvanceHE

GW4

N8 RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP



CRAC
The Career Development Organisation



Technician **Commitment**



ITSS Hubs



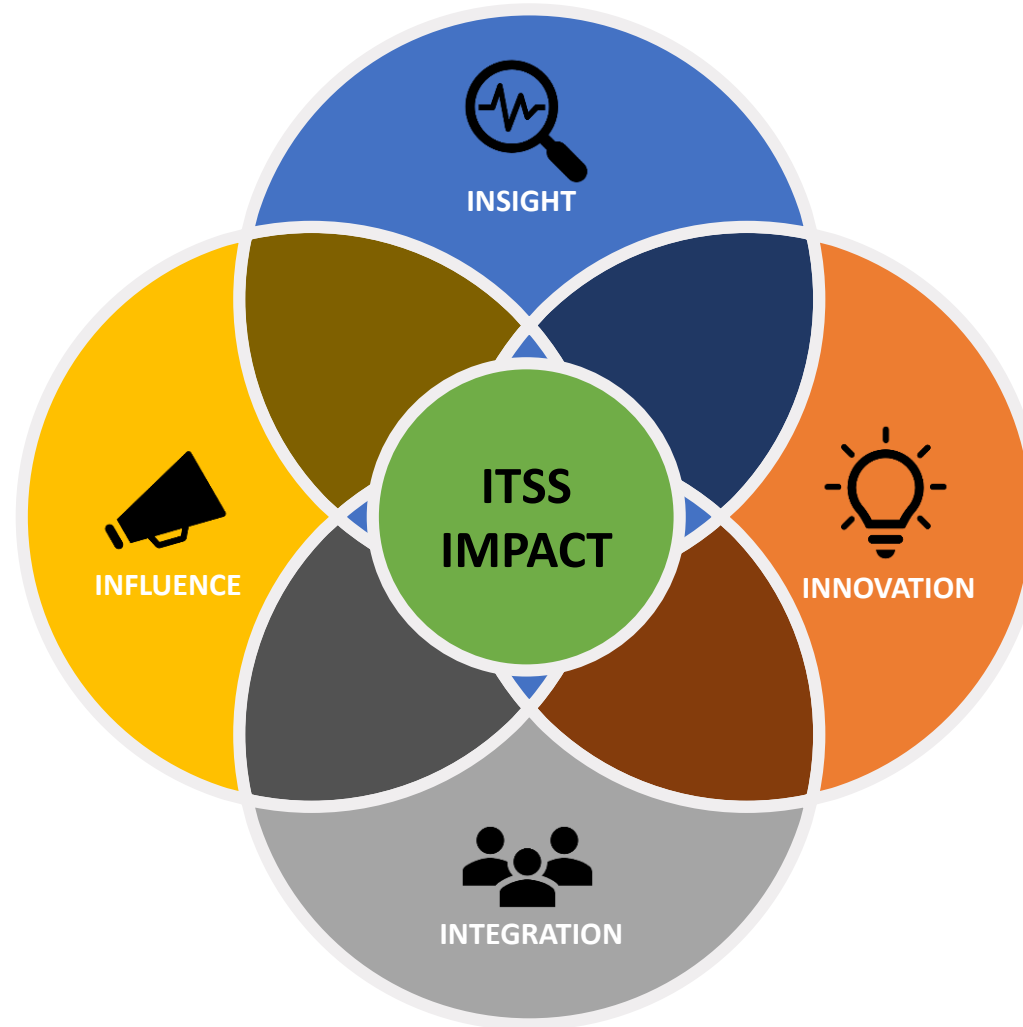
INSIGHT

Research and understanding on technical roles, skills, careers, education, training and research culture and systemic change



INFLUENCE

Policy and Advocacy to inform, influence and interpret policy pertaining to technical roles, skills, careers, education and training



INNOVATION



Innovative Practice to develop and evaluate new ways of working to support technical skills and careers in R&D and beyond

INTEGRATION



Building Connectivity, Culture and Community across and beyond the sector around technical skills, roles, education and training



INSIGHT

Hub 1 – INSIGHT



INSIGHT

Research and understanding on technical roles, skills, careers, education, training and research culture and systemic change

- Mapping the Landscape
- Understanding the Landscape
- Transforming the Landscape





INFLUENCE



**Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council**

**Investment in new
technical talent**

IOP Institute of Physics



UK Research and Innovation



Supporting the establishment of the UK Institute of Technical Skills and Strategy (ITSS) to:

Provide strategic leadership, influence, insight and impact for technical skills and strategy across the UK.

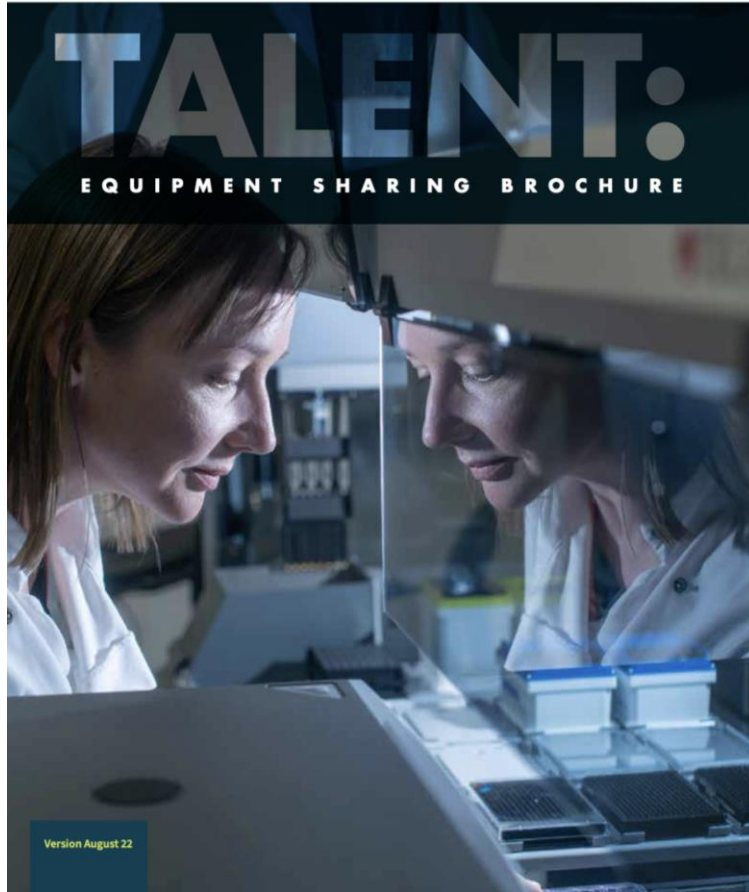
4.4. Investment and UKRI staff support for an Institute of Technical Skills and Strategy.

A national institute providing insight, influence, and innovative interventions to ensure that the UK has the technical capability and capacity across academia, research, education, and innovation to enable the UK to be a global superpower in science, engineering, and the creative industries, and that technical skills, roles, and careers will be recognised, understood, developed, respected, and aspired to.

Continued collaboration with UKRI



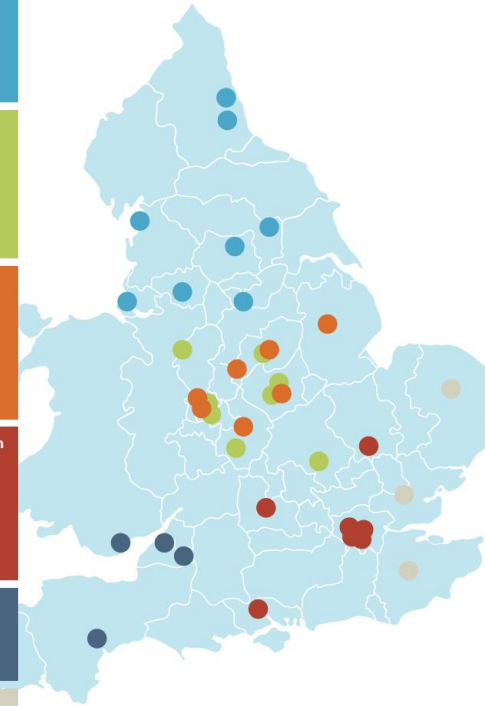
INNOVATION

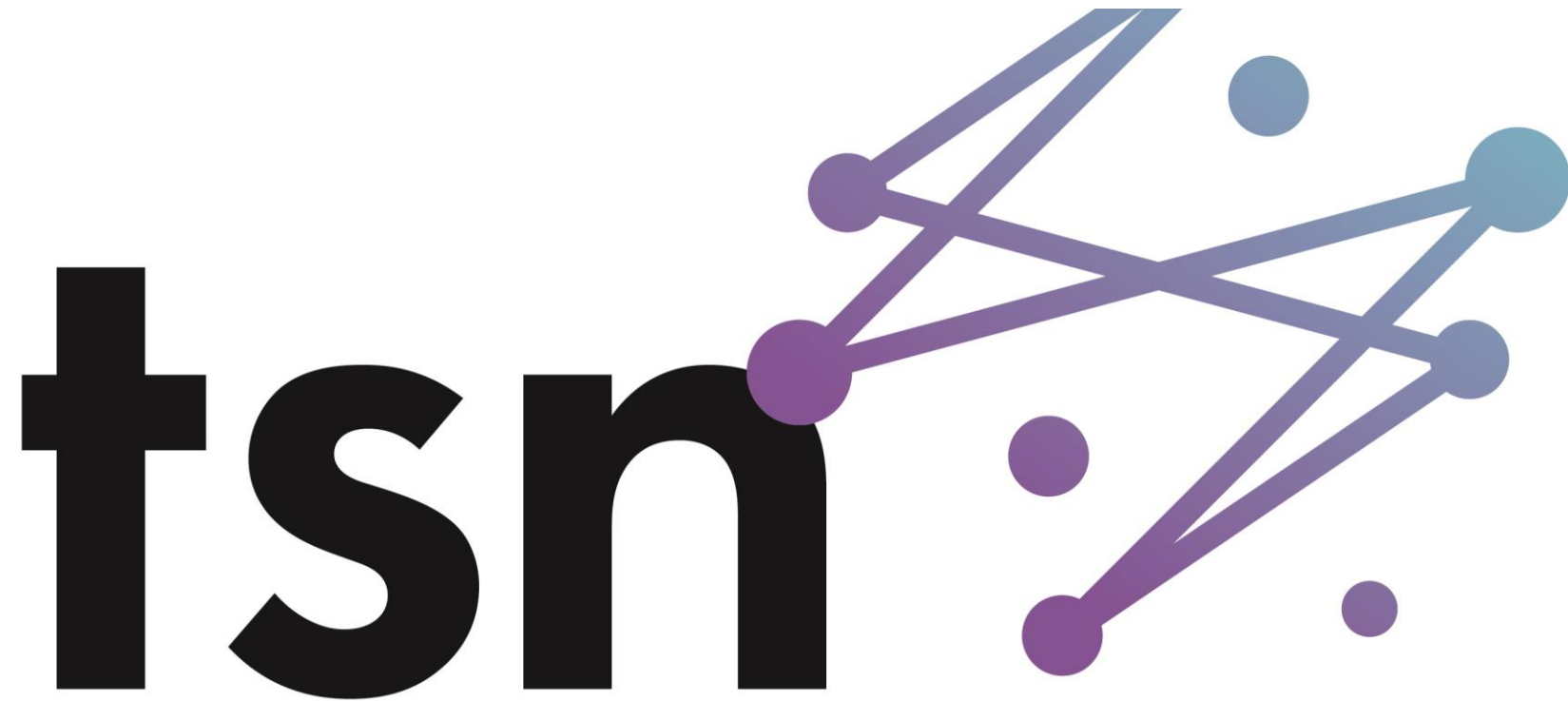


Partnerships with other universities

Regionally, universities have been working together to collaborate on areas of shared interest for some time. These regional HE partnerships, like Midlands Innovation in the Midlands, N8 in the North, and GW4 in the West (see Figure 23), provide an opportunity for technical innovation, skill and expertise to be shared.

- N8 Research Partnership (N8)**
 University of Liverpool
 University of York
 University of Leeds
 Durham University
 The University of Sheffield
 Lancaster University
 The University of Manchester
 Newcastle University
- Midlands Innovation**
 Aston University
 University of Birmingham
 Cranfield University
 Keele University
 University of Leicester
 Loughborough University
 University of Nottingham
 University of Warwick
- Midlands Enterprise Universities**
 Birmingham City University
 Coventry University
 University of Derby
 De Montfort University Leicester
 University of Lincoln
 Nottingham Trent University
 University of Wolverhampton
- Science and Engineering South (SES)**
 King's College London
 Imperial College London
 Queen Mary University of London
 University College London
 University of Cambridge
 University of Oxford
 University of Southampton
- Great Western 4 (GW4)**
 University of Bath
 University of Bristol
 Cardiff University
 University of Exeter
- Eastern Arc**
 University of East Anglia
 University of Essex
 University of Kent





UK Technology Specialists Network



Alex Sossick

Head of Core Research Laboratories, Natural History Museum



Andrew Filby

Director, Newcastle University Flow Cytometry and Single Cell Technologies Shared Resource Laboratory.



Ian Hancox

TALENT Co-Lead: Research Technology Engagement Manager, University of Warwick



Julie Herniman

Senior Experimental Officer at the University of Southampton



Ralph Adams

Senior Research Fellow and Head of NMR Spectroscopy, Department of Chemistry, University of Manchester



Lee Murphy

Head of Genetics Core, Edinburgh Clinical Research Facility, University of Edinburgh



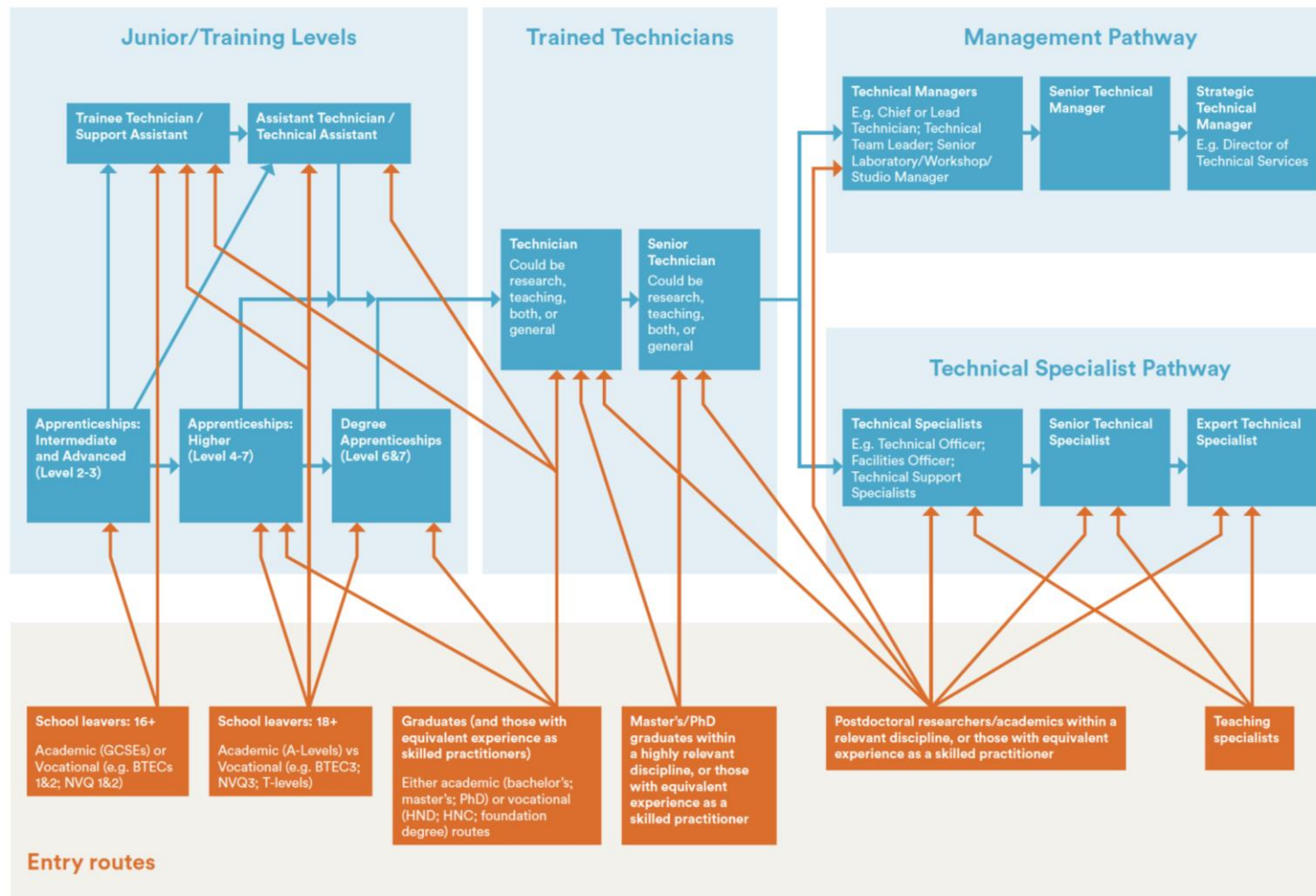
Natalie Homer

Mass Spectrometry Core Manager and Senior Research Fellow in the Edinburgh Clinical Research Facility, University of Edinburgh



Peter O'Toole

Director of the Bioscience Technology Facility, Vice-President Royal Microscopical Society, Head of Imaging and Cytometry, University of York



Legend

- Linear career pipeline for UK technical staff.
- Possible routes of entry into the technical career pipeline.



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

Research Technical Professional Pathway

At any of these levels, transition or entry can occur to and/or from different sectors, such as between HE providers, Research Institutes, and industrial or commercial employers.

Figure 11: Possible entry routes into technical careers within UK HE and research.
Source: interviews with technical managers and career specialists from a range of UK institutions and discipline areas.

Global and UK Knowledge Exchange Placements





Strategic Technical Development: Herschel Programme for Women in Technical Leadership



Nottingham University
Business School

UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

Technician **Commitment**

Executive Programme in Strategic Technical Leadership



Technician **Commitment**



[HOME](#) [LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMES](#) [CONTACT](#) 



Executive Programme in Strategic Technical Leadership

Become an effective strategic technical leader within your institution



Herschel Programme for Women in Technical Leadership

A flagship national programme designed to elevate and advance



Vivien Thomas Technical Leadership Programmes

Three programmes for current and aspiring leaders who want to prepare for a new management role, improve

Technician Commitment



[HOME](#) [LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMES](#) [CONTACT](#)



The Vivien Thomas Technical Leadership Programmes support technical career development for current and aspiring leaders. They have been designed especially for the variety of technical roles in academia and research.

The new suite of programmes offer an alternative to institutional programmes and are available to UK-wide technicians, after being piloted with hundreds of technical staff through the TALENT programme.

Who are the programmes aimed at?

Current or aspiring technical managers and leaders from any UK higher education or research institute who want to develop, or refresh their knowledge, skills and confidence.

The programmes each have an area of focus, find out more below.

Cost

All three Vivien Thomas Technical Leadership Programmes are free to technicians who meet the selection criteria.

There are additional travel costs for Collaborative Leadership for Technicians and Leadership in Action for Technicians.



Technician **Commitment**



[HOME](#) [LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMES](#) [CONTACT](#)

To learn more about the Vivien Thomas Technical Programmes and which programme will suit you best, join the online information and Q&A session on 14 November.

CLICK TO REGISTER FOR 14 NOVEMBER 2-3PM Q&A SESSION



Preparing for Technical Management & Leadership



Collaborative Leadership for Technicians



Leadership in Action for Technicians

Develop your technical capabilities and

When will the programme run?

Cohort 1

- January – February 2024
- Thursdays PM
- Online

Cohort 2

- May – July 2024
- Tuesdays PM
- Online

Delivery method

- Online

Time commitment

Workshops attendance 16 hours,
preparation & asynchronous work
approx 16 hours

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY](#)

When will the programme run?

Cohort 1

- June – July 2024
- Wednesdays

Cohort 2

- October – November 2024
- Tuesdays

Delivery method

- Two sessions online
- Two sessions in-person

Time commitment

Workshop attendance 19 hours,
preparation & asynchronous work
approx 6 hours

[OPENING MARCH 2024](#)

When will the programme run?

Cohort 1

- October – November 2024
- Mondays

Cohort 2

- January – February 2025
- Wednesdays

Delivery method

- Two sessions online
- Two sessions in-person

Time commitment

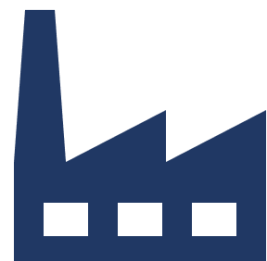
Workshops attendance 19 hours,
preparation & asynchronous work
approx 10 hours

[OPENING MARCH 2024](#)

Eligibility and selection criteria

- Approved and supported by line manager to attend the programme.
- Able to attend all five programme dates.
- We will consider the range of technical backgrounds and experiences of applicants to ensure the cohort is as representative as possible, to ensure the best learning environment.
- Strength of application in relation to how the course will help your personal and or professional development.

These programmes have previously been delivered through the Research England funded TALENT Programme.



INDUSTRY



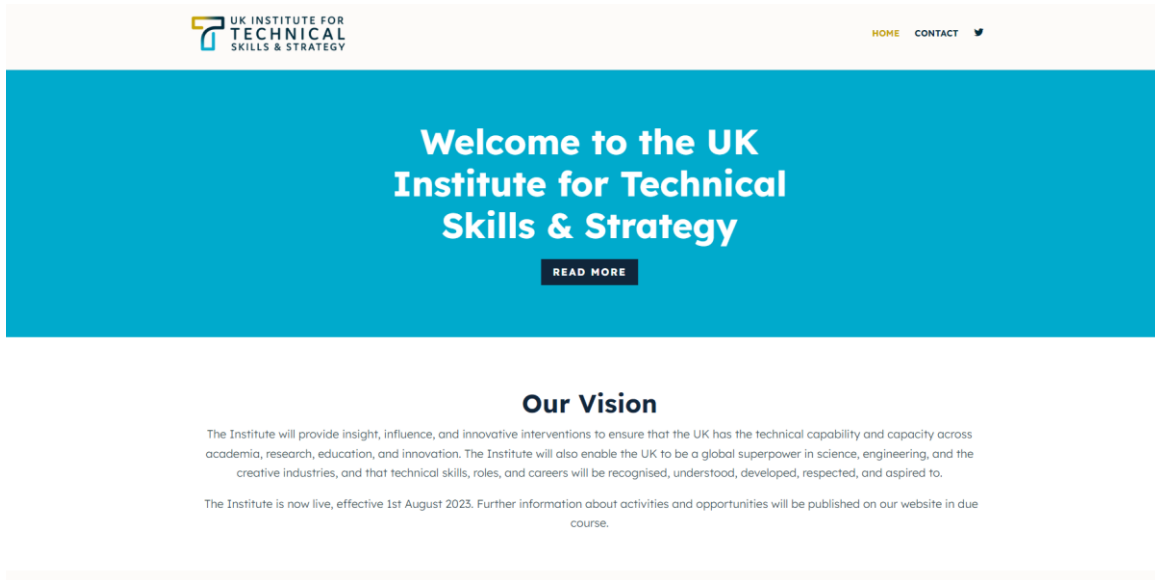
INTERNATIONAL



INSTITUTE SUSTAINABILITY



ITSS Website



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with the logo on the left and 'HOME CONTACT' on the right. Below the navigation is a large blue banner with the text 'Welcome to the UK Institute for Technical Skills & Strategy' and a 'READ MORE' button. Underneath is a section titled 'Our Vision' with two paragraphs of text.

UK INSTITUTE FOR TECHNICAL SKILLS & STRATEGY

HOME CONTACT

Welcome to the UK Institute for Technical Skills & Strategy

READ MORE

Our Vision

The Institute will provide insight, influence, and innovative interventions to ensure that the UK has the technical capability and capacity across academia, research, education, and innovation. The Institute will also enable the UK to be a global superpower in science, engineering, and the creative industries, and that technical skills, roles, and careers will be recognised, understood, developed, respected, and aspired to.

The Institute is now live, effective 1st August 2023. Further information about activities and opportunities will be published on our website in due course.

<https://itss.org.uk/>

<https://itss.org.uk/contact-us/>



The screenshot shows the contact page with the logo at the top. Below the logo is a dark blue banner with the word 'Contact' in white. Underneath is a breadcrumb trail 'Home » Contact'. The main content area is titled 'Subscribe to the UK ITSS newsletter' and contains a form with several input fields and a list of checkboxes under the heading 'Interested in'.

UK INSTITUTE FOR TECHNICAL SKILLS & STRATEGY

Contact

Home » Contact

Subscribe to the UK ITSS newsletter

* indicates required

Email Address *

First Name *

Last Name *

Organisation *

Job title *

Interested in

- Insights and research
- Policy and advocacy
- Technical skills and career development
- Technician Commitment

UK ITSS Governance



UK ITSS Technical Council

Technician **Commitment**



Resources Events Latest News Signatories Supporters Technician

22 MAR 2023 | 1:00 PM
QUICK READS

UK ITSS Technical Council calls for members from the wider technical community

The UK Institute for Technical Skills and Strategy is forming a Technical Council, comprising of members from the technical community across the UK, to embed a culture of technical leadership.

Following the announcement of the UK's new £5.5 million national Institute for Technical Skills and Strategy, we've created an opportunity for technicians, technical leaders and those with specialised work experiences, across all levels and disciplines, to get involved in shaping the work of the Institute. The ITSS Technical Council is opening its membership to the wider technical community to implement a diverse perspective and inclusion of new voices across the UK. There are no minimum or maximum requirements, just a willingness to shape the national landscape for technicians.

Members are expected to serve 2-year terms, after which the Council will be refreshed to allow a wide range of ideas and individuals to be included. Members will meet quarterly to advise the ITSS on the needs of the community, contribute to progressing ITSS programmes/initiatives and provide input on the assessment of internal submissions. They will act as ambassadors for the Institute and its activity. Whilst national in scope, the ITSS will be physically located at the University of Nottingham. This is a voluntary role, with a commitment of up to 5 working days per year. Any reasonable performance expenses will be compensated.

Paul Gilbert, Technical Manager, University of Liverpool and Chairperson, Technical Managers in Universities (TMU), will be co-chairing the Council said:

"The greatest reward of being a technical manager is in helping to guide and promote technical careers.

The new Institute of Technical Skills and Strategy will be in the vanguard of driving transformative technical skills development strategies and policy-making in the UK. The Technical Council will give technicians of all backgrounds the

Latest post



Paul Gilbert
University of Liverpool



Andy Filby
Newcastle University



INTEGRATION

Technician Commitment

Technician Commitment

What is the Technician Commitment?

Technicians make it happen


Hello

The Technician Commitment is a university and research institution initiative, led by a steering board of sector bodies, with support from the Science Council and the Technicians Make It Happen campaign.

The Commitment aims to ensure visibility, recognition, career development and sustainability for technicians working in higher education and research, across all disciplines. Universities and research institutes are invited to become signatories of the Technician Commitment and pledge action against the key challenges affecting their

Technician Comm

5 DAYS AGO



This week saw ever conferences in higher research! Find the #PapinPrizes #HETS2021 here: <https://t.co/Njr> Congratulations!

Read more >

The Technician Commitment Signatory Form



The Science Council is working with partners to ensure greater visibility and recognition for technicians in higher education. The Technician Commitment has been developed to address the key issues affecting the technical community in academia and research. In becoming a signatory to the Science Council's Technician Commitment, University of York hereby commits to take action across five key areas:

- Visibility**
Ensure that all technicians within the organisation are identifiable and that the contribution of technicians is visible within and beyond the institution
- Recognition**
Support technicians to gain recognition through professional registration
- Career Development**
Enable career progression opportunities for technicians through the provision of clear, documented career pathways
- Sustainability**
Ensure the future sustainability of technical skills across the organisation and that technical expertise is fully utilised

Evaluating Impact

Regularly assess the impact of actions taken in support of the commitment to ensure their effectiveness

Signed: 
[name; position] Brian Fulton, Dean of the Faculty of Sciences
[institution name] University of York
[date] 7 April 2017

Nominated Institutional Lead
We hereby nominate Brian Fulton, Dean of the Faculty of Sciences as the lead contact for taking forward our commitment.
Email: brian.fulton@york.ac.uk
Phone: 01904 32 4241

Technicians make it happen

The Commitment includes 4 key areas:

- VISIBILITY**
Ensure that all technicians within the organisation are identifiable and that the contribution of technicians is visible within and beyond the institution
- RECOGNITION**
Support technicians to gain recognition through professional registration and external awards schemes
- CAREER DEVELOPMENT**
Enable career progression opportunities for technicians through the provision of clear, documented career pathways
- SUSTAINABILITY**
Ensure the future sustainability of technical skills across the organisation and that technical expertise is fully utilised

Explore the Technician Commitment

RESOURCES | LATEST NEWS | SIGNATORIES

www.technicians.org.uk/technician-commitment



Technician Commitment

The Self-Assessment Process

- 5 contextual questions
- A 24/36 month action plan aligned to the themes of the Technician Commitment
- Signatories should evidence that the 'technician voice' was present in developing the action plan
- Signatories should publicly state their Technician Commitment signatory status and institutional action plan on a dedicated and discoverable webpage, along with their named point of contact
- Finalised Action Plans should be signed off at an institutional leadership level (e.g. Vice-Chancellor/President/Director level)
- Stage 2/3 also require a RAG analysis of previous action plans

Technician Commitment

The Self-Assessment Process

- So, Just which phase am I in?!
- Phase One (signed May 2017) – due January 2024 (see next slides)
- Phase Two (signed September 2017) – due April 2024
- Phase Three (signed April 2018) – due September 2024
- Phase Four (signed November 2018) – due January 2025
- Phase Five (signed June 2019) – due September 2025
- Phase Six (signed December 2019) – due January 2026

Technician Commitment

Stage 3 Self-assessment & Action Plan – December 2023

The (Significant) Changes

Q2) Please provide an overview of the governance, leadership and reporting lines of the Technician Commitment at your institution, along with details on how it is resourced, and information on how your organisation has engaged with the **wider community** within and beyond your institution. **How has this developed** since you became a signatory?

Q4) Please provide **evidence** that your previous action plans are having **impact**.
(For example, you may wish to provide links to initiatives, websites, testimonials, articles/blogs).

Q5) Please provide details of how your institution is **enacting the recommendations** of the TALENT Commission

(<https://www.mitalent.ac.uk/theTALENTcommission>).

