

Technical Services Awards



University
of Exeter

PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE

Technician Commitment

Awards

Visibility:

A pillar of the Technician Commitment, this award will go to a colleague who has embodied this goal by making a contribution which is visible both within and beyond the institution

Recognition:

A pillar of the Technician Commitment, this award will go to a colleague who has embodied this goal by gaining recognition for their work through either registration, authorship, or external award schemes

Career Development:

A pillar of the Technician Commitment, this award will go to a colleague who has embodied this goal by making the most out of opportunities to move forward in their career path

Sustainability:

A pillar of the Technician Commitment, this award will go to colleagues who have embodied this goal by ensuring the future sustainability of technical skills across the institution

Environmental Sustainability:

This award will go to a colleague who has championed environmentally sustainable practices within the workplace

Innovation:

This award is for a colleague who has changed ways of working in their department or across the service to improve systems and processes for everyone.

thanks to the Workshop Engineering Team who created our TS Award Trophies



Career Development

Congratulations to all our nominees:

Alex Bell, Annie Knight, Chantelle Davies, Jordanna Broom, and Cameron Bedford.

Our shortlisted nominees are:

Alex Bell

Alex started working at the University in the Aquatic Resources Centre about 3 years ago as a grade C technician. Ever since then he has made himself irreplaceable and invaluable both to the ARC team, but all ARC users - especially those using zebrafish. In the last years, he has progressed to a Grade D role to, finally, the position of the ARC Zebrafish manager last month. He helped the team go through COVID without any animal losses, and facilitated research when possible. As someone who has worked with him pretty much every day since day 1, I can say that this newest promotion is very well deserved and it's great to see him evolving through his employment here, taking on new roles and increased responsibilities, and becoming an integral part of the ARC team.

Annie Knight

Annie is an aspiration and a role model by showing great will power to keep progressing in her career, despite her busy week she participated in level 5 leadership program and managed to fit one day of dedicated learning every week, and implanting the new knowledge and skills in her working days. at the same time being an active part of the technician commitment working group, she took the lead to create the Managers Hub website which collect all the useful links and information for the professional service managers, and now she still working and sharing her knowledge to create a clear path for career development. She has continually strived to develop herself and her team and this is shown in her successful appointment with the University's People Development team part time.

Recognition

Our shortlisted nominees are:

Amanda Goodison

I am delighted to nominate Amanda for the Technical Service Award in recognition of her exceptional contributions to the research facilities (RFs). As a financial administrator for Cytomics, ARC, and sequencing, Amanda has not only excelled in her job role but has gone above and beyond by actively engaging in additional activities for other RFs (e.g. Bioimaging), public engagement (e.g. Exeter College) and marketing for internal RFs and GW4 (e.g. posters, banners, e-mail news, etc).

Amanda's involvement in public engagement and marketing initiatives has been invaluable. Her marketing efforts have greatly contributed to public awareness and support for our organization's mission to elevate the profile of our research facilities.

Tina Schrader

Tina's exceptional technical skills in a wide range of complex and advanced techniques, the high quality data she produces, and her commitment to research were recently rewarded with a well-deserved first-author research publication in J. Cell Sci (PMID: 35678336), which was also featured as a journal highlight and accompanied by a first author interview published by the journal. Furthermore, Tina is first author of a method chapter recently published in Methods Mol Biol. (DOI: 10.1007/978-1-0716-3048-8_4).

Moreover, Tina is actively involved in the organisation and support of local, national and international cooperations, working with/visiting international partners in academia and industry. As a result, she is featured in a video from our partner Promega, demonstrating the use of their equipment for reporter cell assays, Tina developed.

Tina has previously been awarded the 2017 Papin Prize, the HE Bioscience Technician of the Year Award 2019 (UK, Ireland) (1st Prize; awarded by UBMA and the Royal Society of Biology at the UBMA Conference, Univ. of Coventry), and has again been nominated for the 2023 Papin Prize due to her excellent technical support and expertise.

Overall, this clearly demonstrates recognition for her exceptional work.

Furthermore, these activities greatly increased visibility, making herself, our research team, and colleagues seen and heard, both within and outside of UoE.

Visibility

Congratulations to all our nominees:

Christian Hacker, Audrey Farbos, Raif Yucel, Steve Goff, Darren Thompson, Gemma Poulton, Zoe Mack

Our shortlisted nominees are:

Gemma Poulton

Gemma Poulton and her creative team at the Digital Humanities are the STARS of the Visibility pillar, not just by taking the initiative to produce the first visibility video showing their remarkable work they do in their labs, but also by volunteering to work with other technicians to produce more of the visibility videos.

Zoe Mack

Zoe has one of the most unusual roles within technical services; she is a beekeeper research technician supporting Psychology in Washington Singer. Zoe joined us from the Royal Navy and had no technician experience or scientific background, she was recruited because of the vast beekeeping experience she has which is a skill most from a scientific background do not possess. Despite this, Zoe dived into the technical aspects of the role, she made herself highly visible to all members of the Psychology department, and to TS colleagues, despite being the only member of TS in Washington Singer for some time. Singlehandedly and independently, Zoe started making improvements to the labs, improved Health and Safety, assisted with fieldwork and teaching technical skills, whilst all along ensuring that our bee colonies met the strict standards demanded by the British Beekeepers Association. Zoe quickly picks up any training she is given and less than a year into her role is already teaching students how to safely make pharmacological solutions. Zoe's passion for bees is infectious, and it's impossible to walk away from a conversation with her without learning a little more about these most essential of insects. Since Zoe joined Exeter many more colleagues now know that we keep and research bees here, she featured in the technical services poster for the HLS Faculty launch event, under the theme "not just labs", and ran what was arguably one of the most popular stalls at the event, where she had brought some of the bees in and demonstrated how she harnesses them in preparation for experiments, this even grabbed the attention of the Executive Dean. Zoe is also the star of a Youtube video about our bee research and her role, hash tagged "visibility" and "technicians make it happen".

To me, what makes Zoe stand out above the many others within TS that have increased our visibility, is that she is increasing visibility of a technical role that most would not know existed, and helping to break down misconceptions of what it means to be a technician, demonstrating that technical roles aren't just for those who left education fully conversant in how to use a pipette. Zoe has never had the goal of increasing our visibility, it's just that her passion for what she does makes others want to know more about this fascinating and essential technical role and the important research it supports.

Sustainability

Our shortlisted nominees are:

Jade Furmston & Audrey Farbos

Jade and Audrey volunteered to help the National Science Museum on their David Sainsbury Technicians gallery, by creating and delivering engaging and creative workshops to school-age children over the last year. They had to attend multiple training sessions and have helped to create workshops which will be used by the gallery in years to come at various school engagement events. These workshops open young people's eyes into the world of what a technical career might entail and therefore is a fantastic embodiment of the Sustainability pillar of the Technician Commitment, encouraging young people from all backgrounds to consider a technical career when they grow up.

Chantelle Davies

Chantelle volunteered to become a 'Technical Services Advocate' and as such has helped to embody the sustainability pillar of the Technician Commitment. She has attended careers days at Teignmouth School to speak to groups of year 9, 10, and 11 students to talk to them about technical careers and to encourage them to consider one themselves, and has sought multiple opportunities to share her career experience and journey with others.



Environmental Sustainability

Our shortlisted nominees are:

Jess Morris

Jess Morris tirelessly worked on implanting leaf criteria for both Medical Sciences teaching lab and Medical Imaging labs to achieve Leaf Silver Awards for both spaces. At the moment she is dashing through the gold award criteria at the same momentum.

Russ Edge

Russ approached the lab sustainability team, well before the Sustainable Research Models fund was launched, about an innovative sustainability project for the Harrison MakerSpace & FabLab which involves recycling and reusing 3D printer support material and old projects to be reused. He came prepared with a fully written and costed proposal, and is clearly passionate about the opportunities this would bring to the space, even improving teaching in the space. This is the drive we need to have behind our actions to become more sustainable technical spaces and it is a brilliant example of how a circular economy can be implemented to lower costs, and be more sustainable all at once!



Innovation

Congratulations to all our nominees:

Paul Tyson, Emma McArdle, Zoe Mack, Freddie Wyatt, Greg Paull, Joana Zaragoza-Castells & Angela Elliott

Our shortlisted nominees are:

Paul Tyson

Paul has created a series of user friendly templates through Microsoft power app for all ARC users and core staff that has both made the ARCs day to day running and collation of data much easier. This has sped up work efficiency and sharing of key information from CoSHH data, HSE documents, protocols, room usage, plantoom information and water chemistry. The adaptability of what he has created means that it is future proof and a joy to work with for all users.

Freddie Wyatt

Freddie has been working for the CSRC for nearly three years and has always had an incredible work ethic and always ensuring he provides the most help possible to all new staff and working above and beyond to help the whole team. Freddie has recently started in a new role in the CSRC as the Assistant Manager for the BMBS module. He has really upped the standard of the lessons and OSCE practicals even despite higher workloads. Freddie has kept the standards very high throughout. constantly gets positive feedback from tutors and students. He has taken it upon himself as the most experienced member of staff to train all the new technicians and tutors on any equipment that staff need. This has been a massive help to all staff and technicians who also get involved to learn and will absolutely enhance the student learning experience and learning a great deal. Freddie has also spent a lot of time looking at lesson plans to see where things could be improved for example letting the tutors know of equipment that might be more beneficial or looking into ordering things that will aid the learning of the topic being taught. Freddie has also created an amazing stock and delivery system using excel, teams and a stock book in the consumables store that all the staff use regularly to check stock levels and organise deliveries. This has meant that resources or consumables are now ordered and ready for lessons and exams coming up and there is always plenty of extra stock if required. When we had a new team of technicians starting after staff leaving for other jobs Freddie organised the whole centre before they arrived even though we were 4 members of staff short. He labelled everything clearly, created inventories and de-cluttered all of the unused stock so that everything was easy to find for new staff. I could write all day about the extra things Freddie has brought to the centre. His innovation has improved every aspect of the centre, from storage, stock, teaching and student support. His work ethic is beyond anyone I've ever worked with and he does everything with the mind set of helping the team and student learning. He is the first person anyone goes to for help and he will offer detailed advice in great detail with a respectful and informative manner. He will also go out of his way to help the admin team if they require any extra help for anything. His positivity and resourcefulness have made him a joy to work with, a great team player and an asset to the whole centre. Everyone here appreciates this very much and this is very much a nomination from us all at the centre, the admin team, tutors and technicians.