



University
of Exeter

**Technical Strategy
& Operations**

Technician Conference: Visibility



**Thursday 19th June 2025
The Forum, Streattham Campus**

PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE

Technician Commitment





About the conference

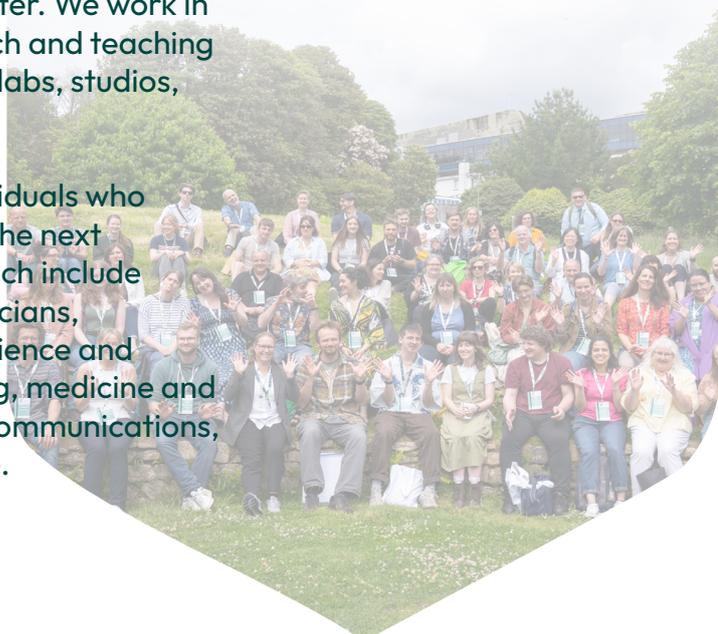
2025 marks the University of Exeter's 7th annual Technician Conference. The theme for this year is 'Visibility' as one of the key pillars of the Technician Commitment. This year's event focuses on highlighting the skills and expertise of technical colleagues from across the service, as well as providing workshops to learn some new skills to help you raise your visibility at work. In addition, you will have the chance to visit stands from our sponsors and meet with their representatives.

About Technical Strategy & Operations

Technical Strategy & Operations is comprised of research and teaching technical staff across the University of Exeter. We work in specialist areas undertaking and supporting research and teaching and promoting compliance and best practice in the labs, studios, workshops, and field.

The service is comprised of a team of talented individuals who support our teaching and research, and in training the next generation of top scientists. Our technical roles, which include experimental officers, research and teaching technicians, and project staff, all focus on different aspects of science and humanities - from mechanical/electrical engineering, medicine and health, life sciences, social sciences, film, drama & communications, physics, geology and geography, and so much more.

Visit our dedicated website to find out more:
<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/departments/tso/>



The Technician Commitment

The University of Exeter has joined more than 100 research institutions from across the UK to back a pledge to support their technicians. The Technician Commitment is a sector-wide initiative led by a steering board of sector bodies, hosted within the UK Institute for Technical Skills and Strategy. 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 to tackle the key challenges affecting their technical staff.

You can find out all about Exeter's involvement with the Commitment, and read our latest action plan on our website: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/departments/tso/staffdevelopment/techniciancommitment/>

Technician **Commitment**

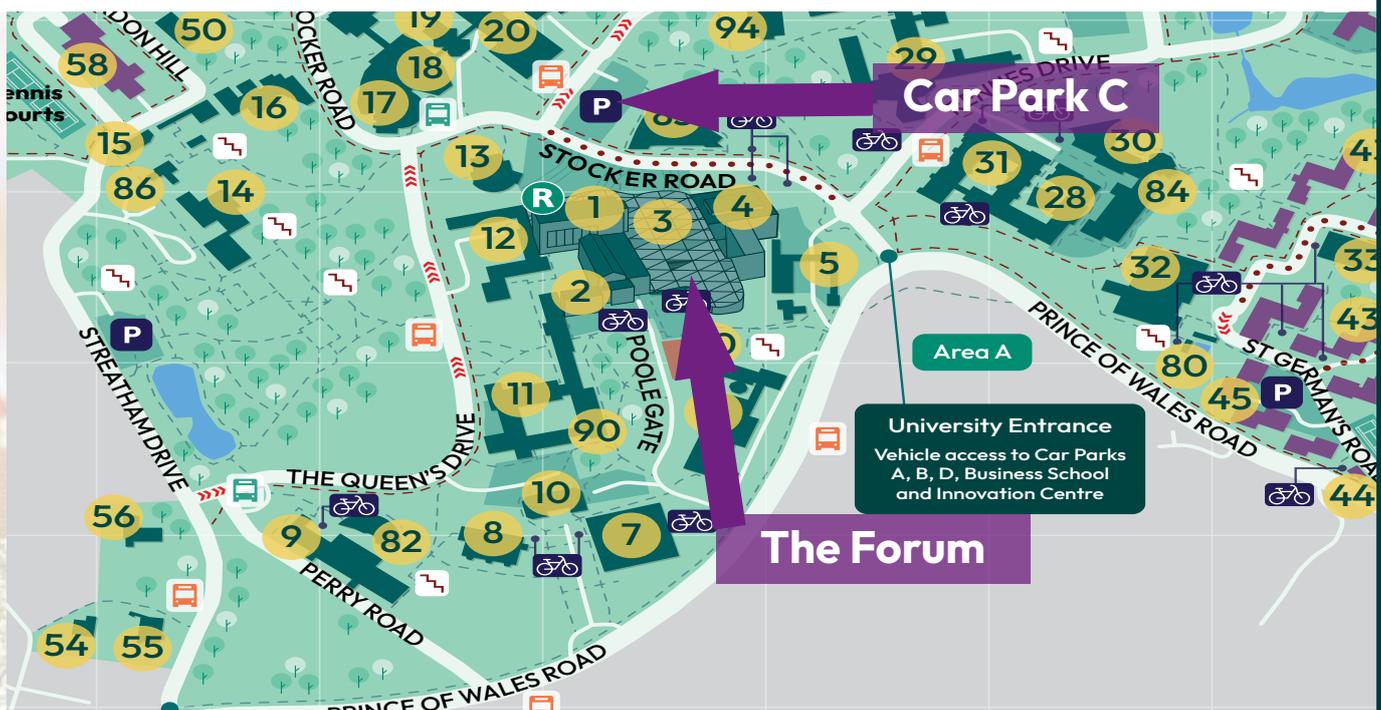
University of Exeter, Streatham Campus

The Streatham Campus, the University's largest site in Exeter, is built around a country estate overlooking the city and is readily acknowledged as one of the most beautiful in the UK.

A Registered Botanic Garden, Streatham Campus is described by The Times as the 'best-gardened campus in Britain' and by The Independent as having a 'sublime' setting. The grounds feature many exotic trees and shrubs and with stunning views across the city to the sea at Exmouth. Many students say they simply fell in love with the campus when they came to visit – its lakes, parkland, woodland and gardens make it a very special place that offers a safe and enjoyable environment for study.

The campus has seen huge investment over the past couple of years, the most ambitious part of which is the Forum, which provides a stunning centrepiece, offering a Student Services Centre, a refurbished library, technology-rich learning spaces, a 400-seat lecture theatre, a University reception and retail and catering outlets.

All the teaching buildings, together with the sports park, the library, the shops, restaurants, cafés and bars are within walking distance of each other.



See the full campus map on the website: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/our-campuses/streatham-campus/>

If you are able to find the time, we recommend checking out the variety of nature trails which are available around Streatham. You can find out more about the Sculpture, Biodiversity, Tree, Evolution, or Sound Trails on the Grounds Team's webpages: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/about/gardens/visiting>

Location: The Forum

The Forum Main Street is where our sponsors and supporters are holding their exhibition stalls, please do take some time out of your day to visit the stalls and speak to the representatives. You can find out more about our sponsors from page 21.

The morning sessions will be held in the Alumni Auditorium, accessible from the ground and first floor. The afternoon workshops will be held in the Forum Seminar Rooms on the ground floor - simply follow the building round to the left past the Alumni Auditorium.

Seminar Room 6 has been set aside as a Wellbeing Space - if you feel you need to take some time out of the hustle of the day, please feel free to use this room.

Schedule

Time	Location	Event
08:00	Penryn Delivery Hub	Car pools leave Penryn for Exeter
10:30-11:00	Forum Street	Arrival Tea & Coffee
11:00-11:30	Alumni Auditorium	Welcome and Technician Awards Ceremony hosted by Dr Charlotte Murphy and Mike Shore-Nye, Senior Vice-President and Registrar & Secretary
11:30-12:10		INNOPLAY: Creative Quadrant Takeover facilitated by Fiona Rourke and Sii Luxford-Wragg
12:10-12:15		Intro from the Wellbeing Working Group Group photo
12:15-13:15	Forum Street	Lunch Please use this opportunity to engage with our sponsors and supporters
13:15-14:30	Alumni Auditorium	Flash Talks from across the service! See page 18 for more details
14:30-15:00	Forum Street	Refreshment break - please take a chance to visit our sponsors
15:00-16:00	Seminar Room 1 & 2 Seminar Room 3 Alumni Auditorium Seminar Room 4 Seminar Room 7 & 8	Promoting Your Work - Social Media and PR with Lou Vennells Resilience and Managing Perceptions with John Meredith from Understanding Animal Research (UAR) Professional Registration with our mentors, the Institute of Science & Technology, and the Royal Society of Chemistry Creating Assertive Solutions with HEaTED Making Your Work Speak with Richard Feltham
16:00-16:15	Alumni Auditorium	Close. Car pools leave to return to Penryn

Speakers

**Dr Charlotte Murphy,
Director of Technical Strategy & Operations**

Charlotte is responsible for leading the Technical Strategy for all teaching and research across the University. She also manages the large team of Technical experts and physical resources that form an essential part of the operations and strategic direction of the University.

She provides strategic leadership to the Technical community through applying almost 14 years' experience of delivering academic-focussed customer service in research and business development as well as operational experience that requires a high degree of technical understanding to deliver outcomes.



**Mike Shore-Nye,
Senior Vice-President and Secretary & Registrar**



As a member of the University's senior management team and Vice Chancellor's Executive group Mike plays a major role in the development and implementation of the major strategies and plans that enable the University to fulfil its mission and vision.

As Secretary to the Chair of Council he works to ensure the University conforms to regulatory and legal requirements through the effective application of the dual assurance system in support of robust and effective University governance.

Mike has a particular responsibility for overseeing the development and implementation the Professional Services Strategy along with the University's Capital Investment Strategies especially in relation to the Estate and IT infrastructure.

Technician Awards

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.

Nominees:

Rachael Saunders, Technician (Archaeology)

Nominated by Carly Ameen and Laura Evis

“In the past year, Rachael Saunders has become an invaluable part of growing SHArD 3D within the Archaeology and History department. She has taken every opportunity to up-skill herself in advanced digital imaging techniques, attending a week long training course for CT-scan operators in the summer of 2024, and more recently by attending the Hirox Microscope users meeting and presenting on SHArDs work in spring 2025. She has quickly advanced her knowledge of operating multiple pieces of equipment to a high standard, supporting staff and students from all three faculties to conduct state of the art research on topics as wide ranging as the non destructive analysis of mummies to the imagining of coral, zebrafish and beyond. Rachael is an essential part of the commercialisation activities undertaken by SHArD 3D, supporting meetings with potential clients and providing bespoke support for completing commercial contracts alongside Exeter Innovation colleagues. She has begun to input more directly in the research direction of the lab, and part of her work over the next 12 months will be as a paid research technician providing a digital radiography services to forensic fire investigators as part of an AHRC IAA translational funding application. Rachael is dedicated to ensuring that the work she delivers for and on behalf of SHArD 3D is as comprehensive and robust as possible, while maintaining the highest levels of standard in the support she provides to our department and students on a daily basis. It is clear that she has immense capabilities in the digital imaging sector, and she is has competently and enthusiastically taken on every opportunity presented to her to ensure that she continues to build up critical skills in this area to support her future career development...Her commitment to career advancement is further evidenced by her active involvement in the SHArD 3D Lab’s commercialisation efforts, where she provides expert support to potential clients. Rachael’s consistent pursuit of knowledge and her ability to translate training into practical, high-quality support underscores her commitment to career development, making her an ideal candidate for this award... I recommend her without hesitation for the award of “Career Development”.”

Julian Yates, Technician

Nominated by Mohamad Abdel-Aal

“Great passion, Professional, Perfectionist”



Technician Awards

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.

Nominees:

Andy Matthews, Technical Manager (ESI)

Nominated by Anurag Roy

“I strongly nominate Dr. Andrew Matthews (Andy), the ESI Lab Manager, for the Sustainability Technician Award due to his exceptional dedication, innovative approaches, and tangible contributions to fostering a sustainable environment within the ESI and beyond. Andy’s 24/7 support spirit exemplifies his commitment to enriching a holistic, sustainable approach that benefits everyone involved in the lab’s operations. His efforts go far beyond the ordinary, making him a standout candidate for this recognition.

One of Andy’s most remarkable contributions is his unwavering anytime support across critical areas such as health and safety, risk management, and waste management. For instance, he ensures that the entire ESI team has access to guidance and resources at any hour, enabling us to maintain safe and environmentally responsible practices. This includes managing waste streams—solid, liquid, glass, and even electrical—effectively reducing our ecological footprint. His interdisciplinary, suggestive approach to minimizing carbon emissions in chemical synthesis and usage is a game-changer. By proactively identifying opportunities to optimize processes, Andy has helped us rethink how we handle chemicals, ensuring that sustainability is at the core of our operations.

Moreover, Andy’s pioneering work with fungi, algae, and microbes alongside students demonstrates his forward-thinking mindset. He collaborates with researchers to explore renewable and sustainable practices, such as leveraging biological systems to create greener alternatives. This aligns perfectly with my own background in renewable chemical engineering, and I can personally attest to how inspiring it is to work with someone who bridges disciplines to solve complex sustainability challenges. For example, his efforts in categorizing chemicals and streamlining waste management have not only reduced environmental harm but also set a benchmark for others to follow.

Andy’s impact is both practical and visionary. His ability to sort out chemical categories, manage diverse waste types, and integrate renewable practices makes him an invaluable asset to the ESI. He doesn’t just maintain the status quo—he pushes boundaries to create a more sustainable future. This combination of hands-on support, innovative research, and a relentless drive to reduce our carbon footprint makes Dr. Andrew Matthews the ideal recipient of the Sustainability Technician Award.”

Christian Hacker, Facility Director, Bioimaging Centre

Nominated by Amanda Goodison

“Christian has worked very hard to generate recognition and sustainability of Bioimaging technical skills via both leadership of the GW4 Imaging group (Inaugural GW4 Imaging Day on 9 June 2025 in Exeter) and also establishing Imaging Training for internal and external attendees initially via EM Training Workshop 22–25 July 2025 at Exeter. He has also established the Technician Coffee Mornings at Camper, Queens once a month and lots of exhibitions, participation in tours and outreach

Technician Awards

Nisha Lamichhane, Technician (Biocatalysis)

Nominated by Raif Yuecel

“I’m delighted to nominate Dr Nisha Lamichhane for the Sustainability Award.

Nisha’s exceptional commitment to promoting sustainability, both in environmental practices and in building long-term technical capability across the institution, has been transformative for the Biocat building and its research community. Her leadership in securing the LEAF Gold accreditation for the Biocat building is a testament to her vision, determination, and collaborative approach. This award, achieved in 2024, is a direct result of Nisha’s tireless efforts to improve laboratory sustainability practices - introducing new systems, engaging colleagues across different research groups, and ensuring that environmentally responsible standards are embedded in daily operations.

Nisha’s impact extends far beyond environmental sustainability. She has played a central role in supporting the operational sustainability of the Biocat labs, taking on responsibilities well beyond her job description. Her proactive support for the Mass Spectrometry, Cytomics, and Zebrafish research facilities within the building has been essential in keeping these core capabilities running smoothly. From managing lab access and waste handling to overseeing compliance with LabCup and ensuring health and safety practices are upheld, Nisha has been the backbone of the building’s smooth functioning.

She has also driven forward community sustainability, acting as the first point of contact for technical and research staff, students, and visitors alike. By organising and leading the Biocat lab meetings, delivering the Technical Lunch Seminar Series (>12 events since April 2024), and proactively addressing the evolving needs of the labs, Nisha ensures that knowledge is shared, best practices are maintained, and the next generation of technical expertise is nurtured.

Nisha is an outstanding colleague who consistently works beyond her grade. Her commitment to creating a safe, sustainable, and collaborative research environment is a shining example of technical excellence and leadership. I wholeheartedly support this nomination as a well-deserved recognition of her remarkable contributions to sustainability at the University of Exeter.”



Technician Awards

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, for example.

Nominees:

**Nev England, Technician (Workshop),
Peter Savage, Technician (Metamaterials), and
Brendan Corkery, Technical Operations Manager (Engineering)**

Nominated by Halim Alwi

“In a recent research project for industry with tight deadlines, the team went above and beyond to help complete a prototype test rig. Despite the difficulties setting up the rig for the first time with very tight deadlines, the team (especially Nev) relentlessly and without hesitation helped to fix multiple issues until the rig was operational. The rig allowed us to do multiple tests, which satisfied the industry’s requirements. I can’t thank the team enough for their dedication and efforts for this challenging project. I would like to recognise the outstanding contribution from the team to enable this project, and many others like it to be carried out in a timely and exact fashion”

Angela Elliott, Technician (Geography)

Nominated by Rebecca Nicholas

“We would like to nominate our dear colleague, Angela Elliott who has achieved a forty-year career at the University within Technical Strategy and Operations. During this time, Angela has worked for the departments of Chemistry and Geography. She is very dedicated to her role and is a very valued member of the Geography Technical Team. She has shown compassion, been kind and caring, and supportive to others. She supports Undergraduate Students, Researchers and Colleagues with the same enthusiasm and a smile on her face. She is exceptional at her work, always willing to help others and share her wealth and depth of her knowledge and experience to all.”

Paul Keatley, Facility Manager, EXTREMAG

Nominated by Amanda Goodison

“A good example of Paul’s work with researchers in published work: Read more about EXTREMAG’s capabilities in two new articles out in March 2025 in Nature Communications and Physical Review Applied published by local users and lead authors Dr Dąbrowski and Dr Sait from the University of Exeter. Dąbrowski et al. (2025) article “Ultrafast thermo-optical control of spins in a 2D van der Waals semiconductor” published in Nature Communications March 2025 and Dr Sait Microcoil for magnetization reset during time-resolved measurements; Connor R.J. Sait, Thomas H.J. Loughran, Maciej Dąbrowski, Paul S. Keatley, and Robert J. Hicken Phys. Rev. Applied 23, 034081 (2025) - Published 26 March, 2025. Paul is also currently serving as the Secretary of the IOP Magnetism Group committee and is a Programme Co-Chair of the IOP Magnetism 2025 conference.”

Technician Awards

Visibility: A pillar of the Technician Commitment, this award will go to a colleague who has embodied this goal by making themselves, their team, or colleagues seen and heard, both within and outside of the institution.

Nominees:

Nisha Lamichhane, Technician (Biocatalysis)

Nominated by Yasmin Ariqat and Audrey Farbos

“When Nisha took the lead to continue organizing the Technical lunches seminar series last February she worked tirelessly to continue providing relaxed and interactive environment where attendees from technicians, ECRs, postdocs, and PhD students can learn new techniques, engage in practical training, exchange best practices, network with colleagues across the departments, and also showcase and celebrate the brilliant technicians we have in the department. She started the series with a meet and greet meeting where everyone interacted and shared their ideas how these series can support them. Nisha also arranged a talk to celebrate Mrs. Heather Ford, MIScT CSci, Technical Operations Manager impressive 45-year career journey at the University of Exeter. She also invited Dr Christian Hacker, Facility Director of the Bioimaging Centre, to discuss ‘Electron Microscopy Applications in the Bioimaging Centre’. following that she gathered all technician from GP and LSI to discuss Lab waste management and to share good practice which was a great success. Nisha also invited Dr. Attila Bebes, Experimental Officer at the Centre, to highlight the principles of single-cell technologies and applications available at EXCC. On March Nisha invited the external speaker Aimee Parson from Merck for a discussion about 3D cell culture techniques and their applications, the following month she arranged with Mettler Toledo and SLS a pH meter Maintenance workshop, where technician learned more about pH meters and brought their broken ones to be fixed. Last month Nisha showed case the exciting work happening at the Sequencing Facility, located at St Luke’s campus. for this and more Nisha is the STAR of the visibility pillar.”

“I would like to nominate Nisha for the technician award under the Visibility pillar in recognition of her efforts to raise the profile of technical staff across the university. She has taken over the organisation of the Technical Lunch seminars, which provide a platform for experts to speak to technicians about their roles, skills, and contributions. These sessions not only celebrate the value of technical work but also create networking and learning opportunities, fostering a stronger and more visible technical community.”



Technician Awards

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.

Nominees:

Audrey Farbos, Senior Research Technician (Sequencing Facility)

Nominated by Mary Buckley

“Audrey has worked extremely hard to improve the paperwork side of the way we work in the sequencing department - she has introduced OneNotes to keep track of meetings the Planner app to make a visible todo list and has helped organise and improve the sharepoint site to make it more organised and easier to find things. She has also greatly improved the standard operating procedures - we keep these on excel and she has made them easier to follow and fill out which ensures the work we do has integrability traceability and reliability.”

Kerry Jacobs, Technician (Medical Imaging)

Nominated by Beth McGill

“Kerry has been fundamental to the smooth running of our open and offer holder visit days this last year. She routinely ensures that our labs are in a presentable state and regularly goes above and beyond to lay out our phantoms and other bits of equipment to ensure that visitors have a truly authentic experience in the labs. As a result of Kerry’s effort, we have seen a significant boost in applications that at one point were DOUBLE the previous cycle! As we are a highly practical degree, I truly believe we would not have this success without Kerry’s support in the laboratories.”

Fiona Sobolewski Bravo, Research Technician (CREWW)

Nominated by Dagmara Kolak

“I am pleased to nominate Fiona for the Innovation Award in recognition of her exceptional contributions and forward-thinking approach as a Field Technician at CREWW. Fiona has consistently gone above and beyond her job description, driving meaningful improvements across our field operations. She has implemented SOPs to enhance safety in fieldwork, demonstrating a strong commitment to the well-being of her colleagues and the integrity of our operations. Her proactive management of equipment and inventory has led to a more efficient and organised system. Fiona took the initiative to review our inventory and storage, ensuring all equipment—especially batteries and power tools—were in proper condition, safely stored, and clearly documented. She systematically decluttered unused or outdated items, either donating them to other departments or arranging for their proper disposal, optimising both space and resource use. Recognising the unique challenges of field mobility, Fiona has also taken charge of our fleet—including vehicles, boats, drones, and workshop equipment. This not only boosted driver confidence but also enhanced our operational readiness in remote and rugged environments. Fiona’s innovative thinking, organisational skills, and dedication to improving safety and efficiency make her an outstanding candidate for this award. Her contributions have had a lasting impact across departments and continue to inspire a culture of responsibility, initiative, and innovation.”

Technician Awards

Paul Tyson, Systems Support Manager (Biological Research Facilities)

Nominated by Amanda Goodison

“Joining the Aquatic Resources Centre in 2017, Paul was instrumental in helping the Facility transition to using SharePoint and managing document storage and retrieval in the ARC. Since, then following a sideways move to support all of the Biological Research facilities, Paul has utilised the Microsoft Power Platform, and through self-learning, has built numerous digital applications to support processes within the facilities. From communications to document storage, from day-to-day task management to record keeping systems the BRF now “have an app for that”. Despite only being one part of Paul’s dynamic role, his commitment to learning new skills and then implementing that learning into real world solutions has helped transform the way we work and make efficiency savings in what are highly complex facilities to run.”

James Yule, Technician (Engineering)

Nominated by Yusuf Chanchangi

“Over the year, I’ve seen James working with a number of student and helping them through difficult task with innovative ideas.”

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

Nominees:

Karen Leslie, Technical Manager (Hatherly)

Nominated by Marie-Jose Messias

“Dr Karen Leslie is so helpful at saving energy for examples placing fridges in colder rooms or finding houses for unused items. Thanks for the planet!”

Amy Cotton, Technical Manager (Laboratory Sustainability)

Nominated by Emma McArdle

“Amy has fulfilled the role of Technical Manager for lab sustainability since September 2024 and has used the short amount of time she has had in this role to completely revitalise and reimagine how we engage with environmental sustainability within technical spaces at Exeter. She has had to navigate significant changes to LEAF accreditations and has communicated this well across the institution; she has developed a strong and SMART sustainable labs action plan which has led to significant developments in procurement and recycling processes, she has redesigned and republished posters, guidance, and materials pretty much single handedly. Last but not least she has led the development of a workshop/dry lab framework for engineering and physics spaces which have traditionally struggled to engage with LEAF - this has involved significant consultation with colleagues both technical and academic, and liaison with UCL/ LEAF themselves as well as colleagues from across GW4 and other institutions who are looking to potentially use the framework we have developed nationally. Amy has also represented environmental sustainability at Exeter at multiple external events with LEAN, GW4, the UKITSS and more and was successful in achieving a highly commended Exeter Sustainability Award in the education category. Amy’s work has refreshed and revitalised our work on environmental sustainability and should be celebrated.”

Technician Awards

Maria Brennan, Assistant Technician

Jules Bristow, Assistant Technician

Abi Jones, Technician

Nasser Trissi, Technical Manager (Plant Growth)

Nominated by Marina Albu

“This is the first year the Mezzanine has received Gold LEAF accreditation, this achievement is something that has been pushed for and been made possible by the entire team working collectively.

Jules Bristow identified multiple areas within the plant growth cycle that could be improved. She provided talks at Mezzanine lab meetings on the impacts of peat based compost and on foil production to encourage a switch to peat free compost ahead of the 2030 ban and promote compost and aluminium recycling.

Jules and Abi Jones liaised with the grounds team to help design an experiment to test the efficacy of 15 different types of peat free compost to benefit both the grounds team who suffered from a terrible year due to poor compost and to inform us on the best composts we can look to to begin growing plants peat free. She has also created a compost recycling scheme where the grounds team collect compost that will be mixed into compost used around campus. Nasser Trissi has pushed for the replacement of lighting in the greenhouse and in 8 growth cabinets from sodium lights and fluorescent tubing to efficient LEDs. The greenhouse heating system has also been overhauled to install a heat pump.

Maria Brennan and Marina Albu have facilitated and organised the implementation of gloves and plastics recycling. This requires additional work to separate and sterilise each waste stream so they can be recycled appropriately.

All of this work has resulted in a lab that produces less waste for landfill and uses less energy. So far approximately 5 metric tons of plant material and compost has been recovered and sent to be used around campus. “



Speakers



Fiona Rourke
Technical Manager, Creative Quadrant & Skydeck

Fiona currently runs the CQ and Skydeck creative spaces in the University of Exeter Business School. Both spaces are modelled on d.school (Hasso Plattner Institute of Design) at Stanford University. Activities are focussed on human-centred design, learning through making and pro-social engagement. Both students and staff undertake iterative design processes to create and improve product ideas, services and to solve complex design challenges.

Fiona's previous experience includes fashion jewellery design, welding 8m tall astronaut sculptures and wrangling spray-painting robots painting on 10mx10m outdoor canvases.

Sii Luxford-Wragg,
Associate Lecturer in Advanced Clinical Practice

Sii joined the University in June 2020 as a Digital Learning Developer supporting the Medical Imaging team, having graduated in Medical Sciences (Neuroscience) from the University of Exeter.

As an Associate Lecturer and Academic Mentor, Sii is now part of the Advanced Clinical Practice Degree Apprenticeship (ACP) team. He leads the Transitioning to Advanced Clinical Practice strand of modules (HPDM165a/b/cDA) and the Research Skills for Advanced Clinical Practitioners modules (HPDM166/166DA).



Sii puts playful pedagogy/andragogy at the heart of his teaching to create a pro-social learning environment.

As a mental health first aider, Sii is passionate about breaking down the barriers to mental health and "normalising" the conversation about mental health, and he has a keen interest in helping those with specific learning difficulties.

Little extras...

The Exeter Science Choir, Forum Street, 12:30-12:50

Welcome to David Haines former long term songwriter in residence with the MIT Science Festival and to his wonderful Exeter Science Choir.

The Exeter Science Choir is an offshoot of the well known and highly respected South Devon Choir. The Science Choir rehearses at the University year round on Thursday at lunchtime and in the evening.

It's the world's first year-round choir singing songs exclusively about, or inspired by, science: from fungi, to Mr Darwin, to the selfish gene, amoebas, bioluminescence and the like.



NICKEL - ELECTRO LTD.
Manufacturers of the *Clifton Range*[®]

Jewellery and Glasses Cleaning for MacMillan Cancer Support just £1!

Conference sponsors Nickel-Electro Ltd are offering attendees the opportunity to get their jewellery and eyeglasses cleaned via their Clifton Range ultrasonic water bath for just £1 per piece, with all proceeds being donated to MacMillan Cancer Support. Visit their stand in the Forum to partake!

Cash only, additional donations very welcome

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Flash Talks

Speaker	Topic
Paul Tyson, Systems Support Manager (Biological Research Facilities)	Giving the ARC Power! How the use of the Microsoft Power platform is streamlining work in the Aquatic Resources Centre
Fiona Reynolds, Head of Biological Research Facilities Francesca Grant, Licenced Animal Technician (BSU) Aimee Sharkey, Licenced Animal Technician (BSU) Dominic Wong, Licenced Animal Technician (BSU)	Mythbusting the BSU: A day in the life of a BSU Technician
Abi Jones, Research Technician (Global Meterological Simulator) Ivana Gudelj, Co Head of Biosciences / Professor of Evolutionary Systems Biology	Introducing the Global Meterological Simulator
Christian Hacker, Facility Director, Bioimaging Centre	Bioimaging – Imaging Innovation and Collaborative Infrastructure - Bioimaging and the GW4 Imaging Network
Annie Knight, Technical Manager (Biosciences Teaching) Emily Wong, Technician (Biosciences Teaching) Pip Fawcett, Assistant Technician (Biosciences Teaching)	The Geoffrey Pope Teaching Labs
Attila Bebes, Experimental Officer, Exeter Centre for Cytomics	Technician Commitment Opportunities at UK-ITSS: Raising Visibility for You and Your Lab
Steph Vinnells, Technical Operations Manager (Archaeology)	Archaeology fieldschool at Killerton Estate: the story so far

These flash talks are given by volunteers from across the service with the goal of raising **visibility** of the work they do, highlighting **innovative** ideas, and **sharing best practice**.

A special thank you to each of our speakers who volunteered to talk today.

Workshops: 15:00-16:00

Promoting Your Work using Social Media and PR.

Lou Vennells, Head of External Communications, Faculty of Health & Life Sciences

Seminar Rooms 1 & 2

Join PR Communications expert Lou Vennells to learn how to work with press officers to promote your work in the media



Professional Registration: Getting Recognised for your Skills

Steve Spaul, TSO Business Partner for ESE Devon

Steve Goff, Technical Operations Manager (LSI)

Hong Chang, Experimental Officer (Imaging Suite)

Ed Heeley, Technical Manager (Physics)

Joan Ward, IST Deputy Chair

Catherine Perry, Royal Society of Chemistry

Alumni Auditorium

Hear our Professional Registration mentors discuss the benefits of getting the recognition for your work by becoming registered. Learn about the structures and workshops we have built to support you through your application, and hear from both the Institute of Science and Technology and Royal Society of Chemistry on how to get started with your application.



Supporting the technical workforce in the creative, digital, engineering and science technologies

Workshops: 15:00–16:00

Resilience and Managing Perceptions

John Meredith, Understanding Animal Research (UAR)

Seminar Room 3



Learn how to manage perceptions around one's role and to keep up your profile when facing difficult situations

Creating assertive solutions: Practical application of assertive solutions within a case work context.

Sam McLean, HEaTED Facilitator

Seminar Room 5



This will be a micro session of the full HEaTED Assertiveness Skills for Technicians course. Attendees will be able to take away key points to put this training into action.

Making Your Work Speak - Elevator Pitch Workshop

Dr Richard Feltham,

Seminar Rooms 7 & 8

A practical, hands-on workshop exploring how to talk about your work with clarity, confidence, and impact - whether in chance encounters, meetings, or moments where you need to make your work visible in just a few words facilitated by Dr Richard Feltham.

Richard has delivered theatre-based learning and facilitated presentation and impact training throughout the UK and abroad to senior executives. He has worked with various consultancies, including Training in Action, Dramatic Improvement & Actor Factor. A solid research base underpins his approach. Richard's PhD examined the connections between leadership theory, learning theory and theatre-based learning pedagogy.



Sponsors



Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2025, Alpha Laboratories has been a leading supplier, supporting clinicians and scientists since 1975. From laboratory consumables, liquid handling supplies and lab equipment to routine and specialist clinical diagnostic solutions, it offers expertise in areas such as bowel cancer screening and calprotectin testing. As an independent specialist, Alpha Laboratories is dedicated to providing personalised customer service and sustainable solutions that further scientific discovery and improve people's lives.



Calibre Scientific is a global manufacturer, and distributor of equipment and consumables to laboratories worldwide. Our goal is to create a better tomorrow by solving life science challenges with our products and services. Our team brings exemplary customer service and years of scientific experience to support our fellow scientists.



Cytiva is a provider of leading life sciences brands such as ÄKTA, Amersham, HyClone, MabSelect, Whatman, PALL, Biacore, FlexFactory and Xcellerex. At Cytiva, we work to transform human health by providing access to life-changing therapies with 75% of FDA-approved biotherapeutics manufactured using our technologies and 100,000 systems in use globally.

Sponsors

Haier Biomedical

Intelligent Protection of Life Science

Haier Biomedical provides comprehensive solutions to biotechnological challenges, helping Life Science organizations save lives, reduce waste, efficiently utilize resources, and support best practices. Experts within the Laboratory Cold Chain, we manufacture complete cold storage solutions for biological sample banks, blood safety, and much more. This is complemented by related laboratory equipment such as centrifuges, incubators and safety cabinets.

The Kemet logo consists of the word "Kemet" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid blue rectangular background.

Kemet International, established in 1938, leads in precision lapping and polishing technology. We manufacture ISO 9001:2015-certified diamond compounds and slurries, offering innovative solutions for precise finishes. Supported by technical specialists and global distributors, we provide bespoke products, testing, and training to optimise processes, reduce costs, and solve technical challenges.



New England Biolabs® (NEB®) is renowned for exceptional service and product quality and is an industry leader in the supply of restriction/modifying enzymes and polymerases. NEB's offering includes reagents for cloning, protein expression, PCR/qPCR, nucleic acid purification, synthetic biology, glycobiology, epigenetics, in vitro transcription, RNA analysis and NGS sample preparation.

Sponsors



NICKEL - ELECTRO LTD.
Manufacturers of the *Clifton Range*®

Nickel-Electro Ltd. an independent, family owned, British manufacturer based in the southwest of England. With over 80 years experience, designing and manufacturing laboratory products for education and industrial market, including the popular Clifton Range® of water baths. They also manufacture hotplates, mixers, ovens and incubators. Manufacturers of laboratory Metalware including spatulas, tongs and crucibles.



Life Science Innovator Since 1966

PHC Europe B.V. are specialists in the sales, support and servicing of temperature controlled biomedical products for sample preservation and storage, medical and pharmacy storage, incubation and cell & tissue culture.

Our latest generation of products are designed to provide precision, high performance, energy efficiency and sample security.



SARSTEDT

SARSTEDT, a family-run company, has been a leader in laboratory and medical technology for over six decades. With a global team of more than 3,000 employees, we support laboratory professionals worldwide. From development to production and sales, we ensure that our customers' visions are implemented with precision and efficiency. We ensure the highest quality through standardised processes, constant monitoring and analysis. We hold a deep commitment to the environment and future generations. Aligned with this responsibility, we continuously optimise our operations to minimise our ecological footprint, and consistently safeguard human health.

Sponsors



**SCIENTIFIC
LABORATORY
SUPPLIES**

eppendorf

Scientific Laboratory Supplies (SLS) and Eppendorf work together to support the scientific community. Combining SLS's extensive supply network with Eppendorf's expertise in liquid, sample, and cell handling equipment, we provide researchers with reliable, high-quality products to advance their work.

Thermo Fisher
S C I E N T I F I C

Thermo Fisher Scientific is a global supplier of analytical instruments, clinical development solutions, specialty diagnostics, laboratory, pharmaceutical, and biotechnology services¹. The company, based in Waltham, Massachusetts, was formed through the merger of Thermo Electron and Fisher Scientific in 2006¹. Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. is the world leader in serving science, with annual revenue of over \$40 billion



KNF offers a comprehensive range of Vacuum Pumps for everyday laboratory applications. Manufacturing vacuum pumps for almost 80 years, the LABOPORT[®] range delivers the well-known and trusted performance, strong and reliable vacuum. OHAUS has been producing safe, precise, and reliable scales, instrumentation, and laboratory equipment since 1907. We have evolved alongside the industries we serve, ensuring we not only meet their needs today, but anticipate their needs of tomorrow. This is the OHAUS Advantage - built on Trust, Agility, Ingenuity, and Commitment.

Sponsors



Veolia Water Technologies UK (VWT UK) and ELGA LabWater are experts in highly purified water of all grades for scientific and laboratory applications. From small, bench-mounted point-of-use units to complex centralised water, systems. Our teams can provide the help advice, system design and ongoing services support laboratories need to ensure they have a laboratory water system that continuously meets their highly purified water requirements.



Chemistry is at the centre of everything you can see, smell, touch and taste. We are the UK's professional body for chemical scientists with a worldwide community. We provide you with relevant networking opportunities, support you as an individual throughout your career through our services and membership benefits, and support your organisation through our tailored initiatives.

<https://www.rsc.org/>



The IST is the professional body for specialist, technical and managerial staff. Whilst we have been serving our members for over 75 years, our aim is to continually move forward and expand our horizons so that we can best position ourselves to support our members, and the wider technical community, in respect of their needs within the ever-changing and challenging 21st century.

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

Sponsors



**National
Technician
Development
Centre**

Hosted by the University of Sheffield, the NTDC brings expertise and tools to support the development of formal technical career pathways and embed these strategies within institutions, to develop and modernise individual technical skill sets and identify future skill gaps and provide appropriate training and development opportunities.

The NTDC is a not-for-profit organisation, providing guidance and advice freely. Though we are also Partner Affiliates which provides us with additional levels of support.

This year, we are undertaking the NTDC Technician Survey which captures information on every aspect of a technical workforce, from specialist technical skills, to future career plans and development needs. Please reach out to Ollie on the stall if you have any questions.

<https://www.ntdc.ac.uk/home>

Health and Safety Team comprise number of centrally appointed professional health, safety and fire safety advisors. We support the University to provide safe working environments, provide technical advice, training and support, to help those with a duty to ensure anyone who carries out or may be affected by the University's undertaking remains safe and healthy.

<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/departments/healthandsafety/>



**University
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Health & Safety

Come speak to the UoE Digital team about the the Digital Skills Initiative, and how they can support you in your work

<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/departments/digital/>



**University
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Digital

Notes

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<https://forms.office.com/e/MmtEY8gb3v>

Technician Conference 2025: Tell us how we did



This event was organised by a group of volunteers from across TSO. Thank you to all involved and to each of our sponsors without whom it would not have been possible, and especially to Sam Bailey, Jade Furnston, Erin McArdle, and Amanda Goodison for their time on the organising committee.