



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Technicians Newsletter

October 2019

The Technician Commitment

**Aims to ensure visibility, recognition, career development
and sustainability for technicians.**

[More information](#)



Campus News

Local TechNet (Technicians Network) events are an ideal way to keep up to date with what is happening with the Technician Commitment and to network with colleagues from across your campus.

BioQuarter

The first TechNet event was held in February with a focus on technicians based at the QMRI (Blog report: blogs.ed.ac.uk/technicians/2019/02/11/qmri-campus-technet-event-7th-feb-2019/). The event expanded upon the support areas for technicians that had been highlighted at the main launch event at McEwan hall last December. This was followed by a special edition CMVM Equality, Diversity & Inclusion newsletter and a BioQuarter Coffee Morning. More recently we hosted a Professional Registration Workshop and look out for an HR forum coming up later in 2019. If you have questions that you would like discussed at this forum or would like to become a member of the BioQuarter Sub-Committee then please contact Shonna Johnston (s.maccall@ed.ac.uk) or Carolynn Cairns (carolynn.cairns@ed.ac.uk).

Central

The Art School held a TechNet event in June including tours of the workshops. Of particular interest was the [Free-Use Recycling Hub](#) where equipment and materials can be donated for reuse. For more info on the Central TechNet contact Alistair Craig (a.craig@ed.ac.uk)

Easter Bush

The first TechNet event is being planned and is expected to be held in November. For more info contact Keith Erskine (Keith.Erskine@ed.ac.uk).

Kings Buildings

The first TechNet event was held in April with a smaller follow-on event for representatives from each school on the KB campus. For more information on the King's Buildings TechNet contact Caroline Delahoyde (C.Delahoyde@ed.ac.uk).

Western General

The first TechNet event was held in June with talks about professional registration, the 'Go Abroad' scheme and a great talk from local technician Lorraine Rose about [the benefits of mentoring](#). The next meeting is planned for October, for more info contact Lee.Murphy@ed.ac.uk.

University News



We are pleased to announce that Professor Moira Whyte has been appointed as the University sponsor for the Technician Commitment. Moira is Head of College for the School of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine and will be the link to the University Senior Leadership.

"I am delighted to be asked to act as Sponsor of the Technician Commitment, on behalf of the University of Edinburgh. I am looking forward to working with technician colleagues across the university on this important initiative. Given my research interests in lung inflammation, I have long realised the importance of technical roles in biomedical research, but will look forward to learning more about the diverse roles that technical staff play in this university."

- Professor Moira Whyte

Institute for Academic Development

[The IAD](#) has supported the Technician Commitment at the University since inception. The IAD offers a wide range of courses to help with career development with most open to technicians. The most recent IAD Insights Magazine had a focus on the [Technician Commitment](#).

Career Development Support for Technicians

In September 2017 the University of Edinburgh signed the Technicians Commitment in recognition of the role technicians' play in research, teaching and supporting students. Since then HR and the IAD have been working collaboratively to develop a career development framework and programme of support for Technicians. This includes:

Take Charge of Your Career:

A 2hr session providing an overview of the new technicians career development programme, including tools and opportunities available from within the University and beyond. (Running at different campus' between Oct 2019 - Feb 2020)

Career Insights:

1hr discussions with speakers and other technicians to allow you to explore the different career paths available. (Running from Jan - May 2020). *A one-off Career Insights will run on the 23rd October focussing on support for Professional Registration*.

Taking Steps to Plan Your Career:

A 1-day workshop to allow you to identify steps in planning your career. (Running at different campus' from Jan - April 2020)

Professional Registration Fund:

Funding has been secured for the Academic Year 19/20 to support technicians who would like to apply for Professional Registration. The scheme will cover the Science Council registration fees and membership of a professional body for one year. Professional registration is a great way of formalising your career path and supporting further career development. For more on professional registration see: www.ed.ac.uk/technicians/professional-registration (Applications open 16th September 2019, deadline 1st November 2019)

Technician Lens on the Vitae Researcher Development Framework (RDF):

RDF Lenses can be used to help you focus on a particular area of expertise and identify how this contributes towards your professional development. Using lenses can enable you to recognise learning already acquired and consider future goals. The technicians' lens will be developed in the next few months and available to all technicians to support their training and development.

Further information is available on the [Support for Technicians webpages](#).



UK News

Institute for Academic Development

In June Val Gordon, Project Coordinator for the Technician Commitment, travelled to the Jaguar Experience Centre, Castle Bromwich for the 4th Technician Signatory Event. This was an opportunity for signatories from across the UK to come together and share best practice. See Val's review of the day [here](#).

Student Mental Health

A recent report from the Science Council & partners has highlighted the important role technicians play in supporting student mental health and wellbeing. The full report can be found [here](#).



Five to Follow

Twitter is a great way to keep up to date and to network with your colleagues across the UK technician community. Assuming you are already following us (@UoETechnicians) then here are our recommended 'five to follow':

1. Academic Development **@UoE_IAD** Our own Institute for Academic Development are incredible supporters of Technician roles
2. Make it Happen **@technicians_mih** Tweets from technicians.org.uk highlighting technical career pathways
3. Science Council **@Science_Council** Setting the standards for professional scientists & technicians through professional registration
4. Technician Commitment **@TechsCommit** Raising the profile & status of the technical community
5. Mel Leitch **@MeLeitch** Technical Manager at Newcastle University and shortlisted for THE Awards 'Technician of the Year'



Awards

There are a number of awards that recognise the role of technical staff in delivering excellence.

[Why not nominate a colleague?](#)

Technician Awards

Congratulations to Morwenna Muir, IGMM, who won one of the University of Edinburgh 3Rs Awards 2019. The awards are designed for animal technicians and scientists to promote the 3Rs (reduction, refinement and replacement of animals in research). Morwenna's work focused on bioluminescent imaging to follow breast cancer tumour growth and metastasis, and established an intraductal implantation model (MIND) that has been shown to recapitulate human mammary tumour formation more closely than other commonly used animal models.

Technician Stories

We are on the look-out for technician stories. These will be used for a variety of purposes such as the annual brochure and future advertisements. So if you have an interesting story to tell about your work or your career please get in touch. We are particularly interested in getting interesting pictures. If you can help please email TechCom@ed.ac.uk

Communications

Our technical community is over a thousand strong and based over many campuses. Getting an accurate list of technicians has been quite a challenge! Everybody on the UoE technician list is receiving this newsletter. If you have received it via a different route, such as from a colleague, and you want to be included on the distribution list please email: TechCom@ed.ac.uk