

Call for papers and guide to submissions

Teaching and Learning Conference 2025:

Future-focussed education: Ensuring successful student outcomes for all

1 – 3 July 2025

The University of Sheffield

Deadline for submissions: midnight 25 November 2024

Submissions should be made on [our online site](#).

Overview:

Future-Focused Education: Ensuring successful student outcomes for all

Student success can be both personally defined, making it unique for every student, and measured through various metrics of interest to regulators, governments, higher education institutions, and students. It encompasses knowledge, skills, and personal growth, including academic achievement, career development, entrepreneurship, further qualifications, transferable skills, and less tangible concepts such as learning gain, engagement, and social mobility.

Despite this broad definition, maximizing opportunities for student success can be achieved through a strategic focus on ensuring all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential. This includes:

- Support students in connecting all their achievements and having them recognised.
- Clearly defining graduate attributes.
- Providing experiential, authentic, and work-based experiences.
- Addressing the student lifecycle: from accessing higher education to providing clear learning goals and effective assessments.
- Fostering skills mastery: equipping students with the skills employers seek, supporting business ventures, and preparing for further study.
- Promoting mattering and belonging: enabling students and staff to feel connected to their campus community.
- Encouraging a global outlook: preparing students to be responsible citizens in an increasingly interconnected world.
- Offering diverse learning options: giving students with increased choices about how, what, when, and where they learn, so they can fit studies around their lives.

In this conference, we are keen to hear examples of practices that have had a measurable impact on student success.

The complexity of student success and the challenging higher education landscape means there is no better time to work together, share practice, and learn from our successes and failures to shape the future of teaching in higher education.

#TLConf25 brings together global best practice in higher education teaching wherever it's delivered, including small and specialist providers, teaching focussed institutions, research intensives, college-based higher education, private providers, technical universities or other institutions offering tertiary education.

Conference aims:

The conference will:

- Create space for delegates to engage in creative thinking around teaching and learning towards continuous future enhancement and innovation of the student experience.
- Increase delegates' knowledge and confidence to continue developing and improving their teaching practice and positively impact their students' success.
- Engage with leaders and influencers from across the HE sector who share a passion for teaching and learning in HE.

Thematic areas:

The theme *Future-Focused Education: Ensuring successful student outcomes for all* will address the following areas and themes:

1. Future-Focused Education: Ensuring successful student outcomes for all

At this conference we are keen to hear examples of practices that have had a measurable impact on student success, this could include:

- Institutional approaches: underpinned by strategies, policies, metrics of frameworks.
- Co-created approaches: working with students to understand and improve student success.
- Practice-led approaches: working at a school or faculty level.

2. Education for the future

Securing the sustainability of higher education in a diversifying landscape involves focusing on quality, reputation, flexibility and value for money. This can be achieved through:

- Clearly define individual higher education institutions' unique selling points (USP), such as graduate attributes and student support.
- Embracing new modes of higher education, including closer collaborations with employers, and facilitating lifelong learning.
- Engaging high-impact teaching at scale.

3. Education beyond borders

In a rapid globalising world, education must transcend geographical, cultural and disciplinary boundaries to prepare students for the complexities of the future. We welcome contributions that address this theme through:

- Transnational Education (TNE): Facilitating cross-border educational opportunities that allow students to gain international perspectives and experiences, enhancing their global competence.
- Internationalisation: Promoting exchanging ideas, cultures and knowledge through international collaborations, student and staff mobility and global partnerships.
- Interdisciplinary and Interprofessional Learning: Encouraging collaboration across different fields and professions to solve complex, real-world problems, fostering innovation and holistic understanding.

4. Education beyond place and space

This theme explores innovative approaches that transcend traditional classroom boundaries, leveraging technology to explore and implement diverse learning modalities that cater to the evolving needs of students and enhance the learning experiences for all. Examples could include:

- Online learning, digital hybrid or hyflex learning: Providing flexible and accessible education opportunities and creating engaging and interactive learning experiences.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI): Integrating AI to personalise learning, enhance student support and streamline administrative processes.
- Building belonging in a digital/hybrid classroom: Fostering a sense of community and connection among students and staff, regardless of physical location.

5. Education for social impact

In a world facing complex social challenges, equipping students with knowledge, skills, and values needed to make a positive impact is essential.

Contributions could include examples of:

- Developing global and responsible citizenship: Educating students to be informed, ethical and active participants in their communities and the wider world.
- Exploring global issues associated with sustainability and inclusivity: Engaging students in critical discussions and actions related to environmental sustainability, social justice and inclusivity.
- Contributing to economic stability and growth: Preparing students to drive economic innovation, stability and growth through their careers and entrepreneurial endeavours.
- Ensuring access and successful outcomes for first generation, “looked after” and refugee students: Providing targeted support to ensure these

students have equal opportunities to succeed and thrive in higher education.

6. Education for all

In an increasingly diverse and digital world, AI can provide innovative solutions to ensure that education is accessible and tailored to the needs of every student. Contributions to this theme could include:

- Leveraging the power of AI: Utilising AI technologies to provide personalised learning pathways, adaptive assessments and tailored support that meet the unique needs of each student.
- Creating inclusive learning environments: Ensuring that AI-driven tools and resources are designed to be accessible to all students, including those with disabilities and from diverse backgrounds.
- Enhancing student engagement and success: Using AI to identify and address learning gaps, provide real-time feedback and support students in achieving their academic and personal goals.

7. Workforce for the future

As the sector undergoes significant changes, it is essential to equip staff with the skills and knowledge required to respond effectively. Contributions to this theme could include:

- Identifying and developing key skills: Focusing on sustainability, technology, adaptability and resilience to ensure staff are prepared for the future.
- Targeted Continuing Professional Development (CPD) at scale: Providing ongoing professional development opportunities that are tailored to the needs of staff and institution.
- Peer review, networks and external engagement opportunities: Encouraging collaboration, knowledge sharing and engagement with external partners to foster innovation and professional growth.

Conference structure and strands:

The conference will take place over three days, with delegates welcome to attend the entire three days or choose from individual days and evening events.

Theme 1: *Future-Focused Education: Ensuring successful student outcomes for all* will run across all three days, along with two other interconnected themes, as indicated below. All submissions should also demonstrate how the project or initiative has ensured inclusion for all students and where/how it is linked to the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). These are considerations that should underpin all our work in teaching and learning, and in line with the [Advance HE Strategy 2021-24](#) are themes we wish to see across the conference.

Day 1 Tuesday 1 July 2025	Day 2 Wednesday 2 July 2025	Day 3 Thursday 3 July 2025
Theme 1: Future-Focused Education: Ensuring successful student outcomes for all	Theme 1: Future-Focused Education: Ensuring successful student outcomes for all	Theme 1: Future-Focused Education: Ensuring successful student outcomes for all
Theme 2: Education for the future	Theme 4: Education beyond place and space	Theme 6: Education for all
Theme 3: Education beyond borders	Theme 5: Education for social impact	Theme 7: Workforce for the future

Each day will feature a programme of keynote speakers and panel sessions, plus parallel workshops/interactive breakout sessions, oral presentations, roundtable sessions and a poster exhibition.

The conference will also feature two evening networking activities that can be purchased separately.

- **1 July 2025**, from 6 pm onwards – An informal networking meal and drinks reception.
- **2 July 2025**, from 6 pm onwards – The Advance HE Annual Dinner.

Keynotes, panel sessions and other sessions delivered in plenary to the full conference will be recorded and circulated to delegates after the event.

The conference is being delivered as an in-person event, and presenters are expected to attend in person to deliver their sessions. If continuing travel restrictions within your country of domesticity or mobility or accessibility concerns would prevent you from attending the conference please contact conference@advance-he.ac.uk before submitting to the conference to discuss possible options for remote presentations.

Proposals/session type options:

Proposals are sought against any of the seven thematic areas above across all disciplines; however please be aware of the day(s) these thematic areas are scheduled.

Submissions can be discipline-focused, interdisciplinary or multi-disciplinary.

Proposals are welcomed from individuals or teams across a single institution or involving multiple institutions, employers and other partners, especially from individuals of underrepresented groups. Proposals are also welcomed from students, student unions or other student bodies. Creative collaborations between academic teams, professional service teams and students are welcomed. The conference aims to showcase a wide and diverse range of work, activities and creative practice. Individuals may submit against multiple session types but should select the most relevant thematic area.

Submissions can be for any of the following session formats:

1. Interactive breakout/workshop session (60 minutes)

Interactive breakout/workshop sessions engage participants with peer-learning activities and discussions in numerous possible formats, including round-table learning cafés, debates, crowdsourcing sessions, 'unconference' gatherings or 'how to' workshops. This is your opportunity to be inventive in your mode of delivery and activities to achieve optimum engagement and learning with delegates. At a minimum, half of the session should be activity-based or interactive. These sessions will be scheduled into the programme in parallel sessions alongside other interactive sessions and workshops.

2. Oral presentation (15 minutes)

Oral presentations should aim to summarise a piece of research or a project, either completed or still in progress. Each presentation should last no longer than 15 minutes. Three oral presentations with an interlinking theme will be grouped in an hour-long session facilitated by an Advance HE conference team member to maximise audience engagement and ensure a fair time allocation. The remaining 15 minutes of the session will be allocated to delegate questions and discussion.

3. Roundtable session (20 minutes)

This session provides delegates with a 5-minute platform to share challenges, new ideas or hot topics relating to one of the conference themes. This would be followed by 15 minutes to pose questions or provocations to delegates to generate a discussion with delegates. Individuals can submit proposals outlining an area of practice they find challenging and are looking for new ideas, highlighting innovative ideas or technologies, or voice an opinion about a current issue within higher education that they wish to debate with peers from other institutions. Three roundtable discussions will be grouped into hour-long conference programme sessions.

4. Poster presentation

Posters give an alternative approach to presenting current research or new work. Posters should be an eye-catching visual representation of a topic, including graphics, tables, charts, text, and images (additional details can be shared via URL links or QR codes). Posters will be displayed throughout the conference for informal browsing, but contributors will be asked to be **available for discussion** at a dedicated time within the programme.

Posters should be **professionally printed and brought to the conference for display**. Both portrait and landscape orientation are acceptable, although please note the following size restrictions:

- Landscape – maximum size should be A1.
- Portrait – both A0 and A1 are acceptable.

Submission guidelines:

Submissions should be made at [our online site](#)

Deadline for submissions: midnight 25 November 2024.

The following provides an outline of the information required in your submission.

1. Accept Conditions of Conference

Privacy statement:

You will be asked to read and agree to Advance HE's privacy statement, explaining how we will use and store any data you submit.

Conditions:

Before submitting a proposal for the Teaching and Learning Conference 2024, please be aware that the following terms and conditions apply. Presenters are required to:

- attend the in-person conference for a minimum of one day to present their session should it be accepted into the conference programme. Please note, presenter places are not free of charge, but are offered at a discounted rate;
- agree to information about themselves, their co-presenters, their institution and their session details being promoted externally on the web-based conference programme;
- permit their slide decks and resources from the session being shared with conference attendees;
- allow their session to be photographed or videoed during the conference at Advance HE's discretion;
- allow their and their co-presenters' details (name, email address, institution, biography and Twitter name) being shared with delegates during the conference on the Advance HE's events app.

You will have to agree to these conditions and storage of data before progressing with your submission.

2. Lead Presenter Details

Contact details:

Please include your details as the lead presenter. As lead presenter, all correspondence regarding the session will be sent to you, but not to any co-presenters. It is the lead presenter's responsibility to share information and correspondence with all their co-presenters.

Your title (Dr, Professor, Mr. etc.), first and last name, institution, job title, e-mail address, mobile phone number, Twitter handle (if you have one) and a short biography should be provided which will be added to the conference app and made available for all conference delegates to view.

Biographies should be no longer than 100 words and should be written in the **third person singular**. Mobile phone numbers will not be shared outside of the conference administrative team and will be used to contact you only if we cannot get in touch via e-mail.

Before completing this section, you will be asked whether your proposed session includes any additional presenters. Please select the appropriate answer. If you have additional presenters, you will be asked to include contact information (as above) for each additional presenter.

You should only list colleagues attending the conference to co-present your session in person.

3. Session Details

Title of session:

Please give your session a name that describes your session **concisely** and **attractively** to audiences. On request, the title of your session can be changed before publishing the programme, but as standard, this will be the title used for the programme and all publicity of your session online or on the conference app.

Session Theme Selection/Delivery day:

From the drop-down list of seven themes, please select the theme that most closely aligns with the content of your session. Details of each theme can be viewed when that option is selected.

Session type:

Please select the session types you prefer to deliver at the conference (you may choose more than one session type).

- Interactive breakout/workshop session (60mins);
- Oral presentation (15mins + 5mins Q&A)
- Roundtable session (5mins + 15mins discussion);
- Poster presentation.

Further details about session types can be found by clicking the 'Show more' button under each.

Session outline:

Session outlines should be written in full paragraphs. Please remember that our reviewers do not view the information provided in the 'abstract' section, so it is important to provide background information and possibly repeat information. Outlines should include as much of the following information as possible:

- Brief background information about your project, research or initiative;
- How your proposal links to the overall theme of the conference and the chosen sub-theme;
- Who your intended audience is;
- What impact, take-aways or learning outcomes will your session provide;
- How delegates will be able to implement that learning in their own institutions/practices;
- If a workshop/interactive session: how your session will be delivered, how you will engage participants in interactive activities, and how your session delivery demonstrates originality/innovation;

Outlines should be no longer than 500 words.

This information will be used in the review process to select and schedule conference sessions.

Promotional abstract:

This section will only be used for publicity purposes to promote your session via the Advance HE website, the conference app and social media. This should set out the aims and objectives of the session and be written in a way that will attract delegates to your session. Abstracts should be no longer than 100 words. This information will **not be reviewed** or form part of the submission that reviewers will assess when deciding on suitability for inclusion in the conference.

4. Presenter Requirements

Room layout:

Where possible, session rooms will be arranged in either theatre style for oral presentations or cabaret style for interactive sessions. If your session has layout requirements outside of these styles, please select 'other' and explain your requirements.

Please note that while we will attempt to accommodate each presenter's preference, it may not always be possible to arrange the rooms in your preferred style due to limitations placed on us by the venue.

Additional equipment:

As standard, breakout rooms will be supplied with a Windows laptop, a projector and a screen. Interactive breakouts and workshop sessions will also contain flip charts, pens, post-it notes, and other stationery.

VGA and HMDI adaptors will be available for presenters who wish to bring their laptops. Presenters wishing to use Mac laptops or Macbooks should bring an appropriate adapter to connect to the projector cables where possible.

If you require equipment in addition to the above list, please state it in this section. Please be conscious of the limitations of spaces within venues and try to adapt your sessions accordingly. We cannot accommodate sessions requiring multiple delegate access to computer terminals/laptops or other specific equipment.

Additional Requirements:

If you anticipate having any additional requirements when attending the conference, please inform us of these here. These may include accessibility, access, or other additional requirements enabling you to attend and present your session.

Support dogs, carers and assistance staff are welcome at the conference and will not be charged an attendance fee. Please let us know about this by including the details here. A quiet room, prayer room and baby feeding room will be provided throughout the conference and available to all delegates.

Review criteria:

Each proposal is subject to review by a panel of peer reviewers against the following criteria:

- relevance to the conference theme and sub-themes;
- implications of the work for the EDI community;
- clarity of the proposal;
- originality/innovation of the subject matter;

- anticipated interest;
- originality/innovation of the mode of presentation (for workshops/interactive sessions only);
- potential for delegates to be actively engaged.

Additional information:

Important dates:

Date	Milestone
16 September 2024	Call opens
25 November 2024	Deadline for submissions (midnight)
w/c 20 January 2025	Lead presenters informed of submission outcome
27 January 2025	Draft conference programme published online
14 February 2025	Lead presenter acceptance of session place
25 April 2025	End of presenter 10% discount offer
23 May 2025	Deadline for presenters and co-presenters to have booked onto the conference
13 June 2025	PPT presentations and poster PDFs to be submitted
17 June 2025	Conference bookings close

Conference prices:

Following confirmation of acceptance into the conference programme, presenters will be eligible for a **time-limited** 10% discount offer on ticket prices. The presenter discount closes on **25 April 2025** and to ensure presenters and co-presenters take advantage of this offer, places must be booked before this date. Presenter bookings after this date will be charged at the full conference rate.

To book your place at the conference, please [click here](#)

	Ticket type	Member institutions	Non-members
Early Bird/Presenter rate	1 day	£342	£456
Standard rate	1 day	£360	£480
Early Bird/Presenter rate	2 days	£636.50	£845.50
Standard rate	2 days	£670	£890
Early Bird/Presenter rate	3 days	£912	£1,211.25
Standard rate	3 days	£960	£1,275

Optional networking events	Price
Networking meal/BBQ (1 July)	£48 inc VAT
Dinner (2 July)	£72 inc VAT

Pre-conference:

Following the review process and scheduling of the conference programme, presenters will be informed of their acceptance and the time and date of their session, and they will be asked to confirm acceptance of the offer to present. All presenters (regardless of session type) must register and pay for their place at the conference by **23 May 2025** at the latest, or by **25 April 2025** to benefit from the 10% presenter discount rate.

Contributors must send presentation slides or PDFs of posters to the conference team by **13 June 2025**.

Slide decks (in pdf format) and poster PDFs will be made available to all delegates ahead of the conference for accessibility purposes, and presentation details, drawing on information supplied on the submission form, will be available on the Advance HE website. Please ensure that permission has been sought for the use of any copyrighted images contained within your slide deck.

You may also be invited to blog about your session before the conference to assist with the promotion of the event.

Post-conference:

Slide decks (in pdf format), poster PDFs, recorded keynotes and plenaries, and details of presentations, drawing on information supplied on the submission form, may be made available on the Advance HE website following the conference. Please ensure that permission has been sought to use any copyrighted images.

Presenter availability:

The conference runs from 1-3 July 2025. Presenters will be informed of the date and time of their session in the week commencing **20 January 2025**. We are unable to consider presenter availability when timetabling the sessions, so it is essential that you are available to present your session on all three days of the conference, until the specific time and date are confirmed with you. Presenters must attend the conference for at least one day to present their session and participate as delegates during the day.

Co-presenters and responsibilities:

Please include all co-presenters on the submission form. All presenters listed on the form should attend the conference, and each will be expected to register if the session is accepted. Please note:

- All presenters, including co-presenters, need to have booked onto the conference by **23 May 2025**.
- It is the lead presenter's responsibility **to pass on all relevant details to any co-presenters**, as correspondence in the first instance will be sent only to the lead presenter.
- It is the lead presenter's responsibility to inform Advance HE at the earliest opportunity of any changes to the session title or content or any circumstances that prevent presenters from attending the conference that could lead to the session being withdrawn.

Materials and handouts:

Presenters are invited to share handouts or resources with delegates during their session. Please note that Advance HE will not be able to undertake printing of accompanying materials on your behalf.

Attendee numbers:

We cannot guarantee exact audience numbers at any single session, which may result in delegates' attendance being uneven between sessions running in parallel.

Accessibility:

We will provide presenters with guidance on accessibility, and it is expected that presenters adhere to this guidance and also ensure that any presentations meet Advance HE's accessibility requirements.

Contact us:

If you have any queries about your submission for the conference, please get in touch with us at conference@advance-he.ac.uk