

College Based Higher Education (CBHE) Festival 2026: Enhancing Student Success in Challenging Times: Collective Practice, Shared Learning

The College Based Higher Education (CBHE) Festival 2026 marks the culmination of a year of collaborative work across the Network focused on strengthening student success, progression, retention and inclusive practice. The Festival will take place on **Tuesday 07 July 2026** at Chichester College.

Over the past year, colleagues have engaged in sector-wide dialogue and professional development through the *Workshop Series: Student Support, Progression and Retention*. These workshops have explored trauma-informed practice, Universal Design for Learning, student partnership approaches, and evidence-informed strategies to enhance belonging, continuation, and achievement. The Festival now provides an opportunity to consolidate, extend and showcase that work.

We invite colleagues across the CBHE Network to contribute papers, presentations and practice-based case studies that reflect the learning, innovation and impact emerging from this collective effort. We welcome staff and student contributions.

About the CBHE Network

The CBHE Network is a collegiate, welcoming professional community. It brings together colleagues working across College Based Higher Education to share effective practice, critically reflect on challenges and learn from one another. The Festival continues this ethos: we offer a supportive space to exchange ideas, build connections and strengthen sector-wide capacity to support student success.

Call for proposals and guide to submissions

Please click here to submit your proposal

Submission deadline: **Extended till Friday 24 April 2026 (23:59 BST)**

To submit a proposal for a **presentation or workshop** you will need to provide the following details:

- Contact details for the main presenter and any co-presenters.
- A title for your session (12 words max).
- The session type (oral presentation or workshop).
- The thematic area to which your session aligns (see below for themes).
- A 200-250 word (max) summary of your session, which includes how the session will run, how you will engage participants, and how the session links to your chosen thematic area.

To submit a proposal for a **poster** you will need to provide the following details:

- Contact details for the main presenter and any co-presenters.
- A title for your poster (12 words max).
- The thematic area to which your poster aligns (see below for themes).
- A 100-150 word (max) outline of the topic(s) addressed on your poster and how the poster links to your chosen thematic area.

Thematic areas

We particularly welcome contributions aligned with the themes developed through this year's workshops, including:

- Trauma-informed approaches to supporting diverse learners
- Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and inclusive curriculum design
- Evidence-informed strategies to improve progression and retention
- Student partnership and co-creation models
- Institutional cultures that foster belonging and engagement
- Proactive and targeted interventions across the learner lifecycle
- Data-informed approaches to continuation and completion

Session types

We welcome proposals in the following formats:

Presentations (20 minutes + 10 minutes Q&A)

Each talk should last for no more than 20 minutes and aim to inspire reflection and discussion among the audience. Each 20-minute presentation will be followed by a 10-minute facilitated question and answer discussion to explore key themes and encourage interaction. Each session will be chaired to promote audience engagement and ensure effective timekeeping.

Workshop session (60 minutes)

Interactive workshops last 60 minutes in total. These sessions engage participants with peer-learning activities and discussions in a variety of ways. This is your opportunity to be inventive in your mode of delivery to achieve optimum engagement and learning. Any presentation elements in your workshop should not exceed 15 minutes, allowing 35 minutes for discussion or practical activity and 10 minutes at the end for plenary questions and summing up.

Posters

Posters must be A1 in size and should be an eye-catching visual representation of a topic, including an appropriate mix of graphics, tables, charts, text and images. Posters will be displayed throughout the conference. Posters will need to be professionally printed and brought with you to the Festival for display.

Why Present?

Presenting at the CBHE Festival offers an opportunity to:

- Share effective practice with a supportive professional community
- Contribute to sector-wide dialogue on student success
- Strengthen cross-institutional collaboration
- Build professional networks within a growing CBHE community
- The Festival is designed to be developmental rather than competitive. Colleagues at all stages of practice and scholarship and students are encouraged to submit.

Important Information

Notification of acceptance: Tuesday, 5 May 2026

Presenter registration (free): Required by Thursday 14 May 2026 to confirm participation

For further queries, please contact events@advance-he.ac.uk