

Technician Commitment Relaunch Event

3 September 2025

Programme:

12:30 – Registration and refreshments

13:00 – Opening remarks

13:15 – Hear from Dr Kelly Vere MBE

13:45 – Update from Joanna Scamp on the UK Technical Equality
Diversity and Inclusion Network

This talk will introduce the newly formed ITSS UK Technical Equality Diversity and Inclusion Network (TEDIN) and its committee, explain the origins of the network, share the aims of the network and explain how you can get involved.

14:15 – Introducing the brand new Technician Commitment action
plan from the RSC

15:00 – Coffee and networking

15:30 – Hear from Dr Helen Pain MBE CChem CSci FRSC

16:00 – RSC Technical Excellence Prize presentation

16:50 – Closing remarks

17:00 - 19:00 – Drinks reception

Speaker details

Dr Helen Pain MBE CSci CChem FRSC, Chief Executive, Royal Society of Chemistry

Helen, a Chartered Chemist and Chartered Scientist, has a thirty-year career at the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC). She has led international campaigns on inclusion, diversity, and global challenges. Appointed CEO of the RSC in 2021, Helen is also on the Executive Board of the European Chemical Society. She chaired the Science Council (2018-2021) and now chairs the Institute for Technical Skills and Strategy advisory board. She was awarded an MBE in 2024 for her services to science and has an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Nottingham.



Dr Kelly Vere MBE, University Director of Technical Strategy at the University of Nottingham

Dr Kelly Vere MBE, is the University Director of Technical Strategy at the University of Nottingham and a leading advocate for technical skills and careers in higher education and research. She began her career in 1999 as a Junior Medical Technician and now drives the strategic direction of the University's 500+ technical colleagues. Kelly founded and leads the Technician Commitment, a sector-wide initiative promoting visibility, recognition, career development, and sustainability for technical professionals, with over 120 institutional signatories. She also led TALENT, a £5 million Research England-funded programme advancing technical careers, which included the TALENT Commission, a landmark study on the UK's technical workforce. Now leading the UK Institute for Technical Skills & Strategy (ITSS), Kelly continues to champion the technical community, shaping policy and opportunities across the sector.



Joanna Scamp, Technical Manager (Technician Commitment) at the University of Kent

Joanna is the Technical Manager for the Technician Commitment at the University of Kent and has worked within Technical Services since 2011. She supports and develops technicians through the implementation of the University's Technician Commitment strategy action plan. She coordinates support for IT, Technical Services and Library Services staff across the university, as well as manages a portfolio of projects.

Joanna is passionate about creating positive impact to technical staff and the wider community, through the championing of the Technician Commitment. She takes part in national conversations, working groups and committees, representing Kent and the technical community. Joanna has contributed to and been a part of national reports, initiatives and projects. Jo has been appointed as the chair of the ITSS UK Technical EDI Network Committee.

Joanna is an artist outside of work and takes any opportunity to bring her creativity into her role as her work inspires her professional practice.

