



University  
of Exeter

Technical Strategy & Operations

# Technician Conference

Thursday 20th June  
The Exchange, Penryn Campus

# About the conference

2024 marks the University of Exeter's 6th annual Technician Conference. The theme for this year is 'Recognition' as one of the key pillars of the Technician Commitment.

As well as the workshops in the afternoon, you will have the chance to visit stands from our sponsors and meet with their representatives, learn from our keynote speaker, and celebrate our colleague's achievements through our Award Ceremony.

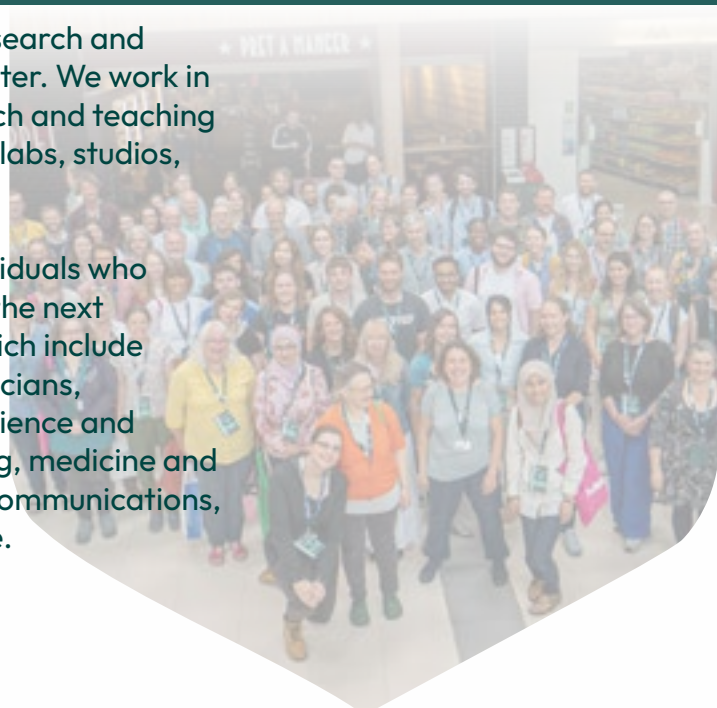
## About Technical Strategy & Operations

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**

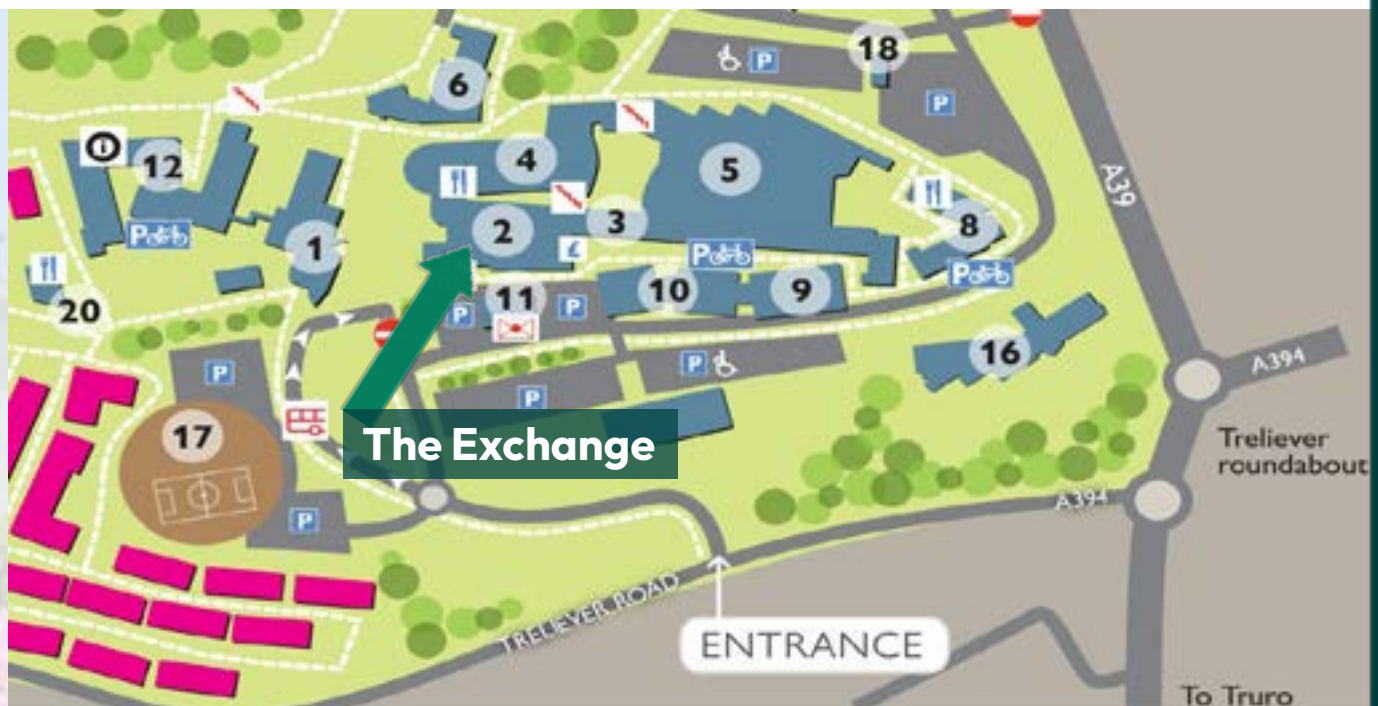
# University of Exeter, Penryn Campus

The Penryn Campus offers the very latest academic, research and residential facilities set in 100 acres of countryside close to the waterside town of Falmouth, with beautiful views over the Fal estuary.

Made up of around 6,000 students, it offers a close-knit friendly community, in an arrangement that is unique as we share the campus with Falmouth University; a leading specialist arts institution. This combination creates a vibrant community of students from science, engineering, humanities and arts backgrounds.

The environment and sustainability underpin much of the ethos of the Penryn Campus. It is no coincidence that this campus is home to the £30 million Environment and Sustainability Institute (ESI), and puts the University and Cornwall at the forefront of research into the solutions to problems of environmental change.

The campus is constantly developing; most recently the £12 million Stella Turk Building, named after a prominent female Cornish scientist, has established a new centre of excellence for research and teaching, building on the success of the £12 million Science and Engineering Research Support Facility (SERSF). The Stella Turk building supports growth in the Business School, the Centre for Ecology and Conservation, Renewable Energy and Camborne School of Mines.



See the full campus map on the website: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/visit/directions/penrynmap/>

If you are able to find the time, we recommend checking out the [Self-Guided Walking Tour](#) of the campus, which starts from the Exchange. Although it is catered towards prospective students, it provides an excellent tour of the campus buildings. If the weather allows, we particularly recommend following steps 21 - 23 which takes you to the beautiful Tremough Heritage Gardens which are shown in more detail [in this guide](#).

# Location: The Exchange

The Exchange is a £10m learning, teaching and research hub at the heart of Penryn Campus. Created to foster exploration and collaboration, the vibrant, welcoming space gives both students and staff access to the full spectrum of academic and support services such as the Library and Career Zone, as well as lecture and seminar spaces.

Sponsors and suppliers will be situated along the central thoroughfare of The Exchange. On the top floor are Seminar Rooms Yellow, Green, and Red; where refreshments can be found throughout the day and some afternoon workshops will be held.

On the middle floor is the Exchange Lecture Theatre. Please join us here at the start and end of the day for our Technician Award Ceremony and keynote speech.

A full schedule of the day can be found below.

## Schedule

Time	Location	Event
08:00	Bus stop, centre of Streatham Campus	Coach leaves Streatham Campus (near Geoffrey Pope / opposite Car Park C)
10:30-11:00	Exchange Yellow	Arrival Tea & Coffee
11:00-11:30	Exchange Lecture	Welcome from Dr Charlotte Murphy and Prof Dave Hosken Technician Award Ceremony
11:30-12:30		Keynote speaker: Amanda Hayton, Durham University, "Recognition in Technical Careers"
12:30-13:30	Exchange Yellow	Lunch - please take a chance to visit our sponsors
13:30-14:30	Exchange Green Exchange Red	Principles of the Circular Economy Tour of the Environmental Sustainability Institute Professional Registration
14:30-15:00	Exchange Yellow	Refreshment break - please take a chance to visit our sponsors
15:00-16:00	Exchange Green Exchange Red	Symplectic: What it is and how to use it Tour of the Cambourne School of Mines Creative Quadrant Drawbot Workshop
16:00-16:15	Exchange Lecture	Close. Coach leaves from Campus Bus Stop

# 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.



**Professor David Hosken  
Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Faculty of Environment,  
Science & Economy**



Professor Dave Hosken is the Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Environment, Science and Economy.

He is an evolutionary biologist by training and also works on conservation issues, particularly inbreeding and the impact of human activity on bats. He was awarded the 2013 Zoological Society of London's Scientific Medal for his work in evolutionary biology and was a member of panel A.5 for REF2021, the assessment exercise that evaluates all HEI research in the UK.

He is the current President of the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour. He moved to Exeter in 2004 after working at the Universities of Zurich, Konstanz and Chicago, after completing his PhD in Australia.

# Keynote Speaker



**Amanda Hayton,  
Analytical Experimental Officer, Durham University**

Amanda has been a technician in the Geography Department at Durham University for 20 years having previously worked as a laboratory analyst in a large Environmental Analysis laboratory in the private sector.

She has completed a BSc in Molecular Science and an MSc in Medical Physics with the Open University, during which she was formally diagnosed with dyslexia.

Amanda has been a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry (MRSC) for 16 years and the Institute

of Science and Technology (MIScT) for 6 years obtaining Chartered status CSci (Chartered Scientist) in May 2023.

In addition, Amanda has been asked to speak at a variety of national conferences such as the HETS (Higher Education Technical Summit), discussing her time on the Herschel Leadership Programme, and the 2023 NTDC (National Technicians Development Centre) partnership conference speaking on her passion for equality and championing the value of neurodiversity in the workplace. Continuing with this passion, she contributed to the writing of a successful Silver Athena Swan award in December 2023, earning her Highly Commended in Durham University's Professional Services Awards for 'Championing Inclusivity'.



**Durham**  
University

# Workshops: 13:30-14:30

## Principles of the Circular Economy

### Exchange Green

**Professor Allen Alexander, Associate Professor in Innovation and Circular Economy, University of Exeter Business School**



Allen is a senior researcher, investigating the role that innovation and knowledge-based capabilities play in enabling a transition toward the Circular Economy (CE), in particular focussing on Circular Acceleration.

At product/service level this considers Circular Innovations; at firm-level Circular Business Models and at regional, national or societal-level, how CE principles contribute to socio-economic transition theories.

His prior engineering career provides him with unique skills and has enabled him to team up and research alongside colleagues in the Marine & Maritime Renewable Technologies, Transport & Mobility and Construction. As Principal Investigator he holds a number of UKRI and European-funded research grants, leads a team of CE researchers based on the Penryn Campus, and is an active member of a number of high-profile academic networks focusing on innovation.

This talk will focus on the fundamental principles of Circular Economy and how it could transform the future of sustainability.

## Professional Registration: Getting recognised for your skills with the IST

### Exchange Red

**Steve Spaul, TSO Business Partner for ESE Devon**

**Steve Goff, Technical Operations Manager (LSI)**

**Hong Chang, Experimental Officer (Imaging Suite)**

**Joan Ward, IST Deputy Chair**

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 the Institute of Science and Technology on how to get started with your application.



## Tour of the Environment and Sustainability Institute (ESI)

### Meet Exchange Yellow @ 13:25

**Dr Andy Matthews, Technical Manager (ESI)**

Tour the research facilities of the Environment & Sustainability Institute. An interdisciplinary institute with a commitment to addressing environmental challenges through innovation. Your guide will provide insights into ongoing research projects in varied disciplines such as microbiology and renewable energy.

# Workshops: 15:00–16:00

## **Symplectic: What it is and how to use it**

### **Exchange Green**

**Simon Cobb, Research Management System Administrator**

Symplectic Elements is the system used by the University of Exeter to manage research outputs. This workshop will provide an overview of Symplectic, including how it is used to manage publication lists on departmental webpages and to deposit outputs in ORE, the institutional open access repository.



## **Creative Quadrant Drawbot Workshop**

### **Exchange Red**

**Fiona Rourke, Technical Operations Manager (Creative Quadrant)**

In the CQ Drawbot workshop we'll spend some time exploring what it takes to make programmable drawing machines using hobby electronics and free coding software. This is aimed at folks with no prior knowledge of electronics & programming, although seasoned tinkerers are also welcome.



## **Tour of the Camborne School of Mines**

### **Meet Exchange Yellow @ 14:55**

Tour the research facilities of the Camborne School of Mines (CSM). See the department's geological analysis and mineral processing equipment and find out about ongoing research in mining engineering and geo-resources.



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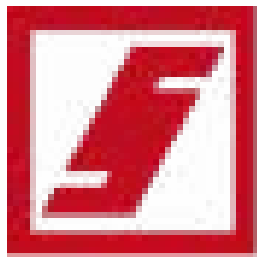


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The IST is the professional body for specialist, technical and managerial staff. Whilst we have been serving our members for over 75 years, our aim is to continually move forward and expand our horizons so that we can best position ourselves to support 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



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>



University  
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**Research Facilities**

The University of Exeter Research Facilities Management Committee want to showcase their work and introduce you to how they can help to support research across disciplines. Please stop by and speak to some of the Facility Managers to find out more.

<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/facilities/>



University  
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Come speak to the UoE Digital team about what they are working on at the moment and how they can support you in your work

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

**Digital**

# Notes

*Feel free to use this page to make any notes throughout the day*

# Feedback

*We would love to hear from you about your experience today. Please take some time to leave us a few words of feedback.*

*If you are using the digital programme, you can find the feedback form here:*

*<https://forms.office.com/e/1LAS5VEnyn>*

Tell us how we did



*This event was organised by a group of volunteers from across TSO, utilising expertise and resources from not only Exeter but institutions across the UK.*

*Thank you to all involved and to each of our sponsors, and especially to Anna Bate, Ed Heeley, Daniela Farina, Jenny Lord, Nikki Lee, Sam Bailey, and Yik Ting Chan for their time on the organising committee.*