



Welcome to the 2026 University of Manchester Teaching and Learning Conference

We are so happy to see you here at our third annual conference! Thank you so much for the time you have put aside to engage with the ideas, initiatives and research of all of the speakers, presenters and participants.

We hope you have a wonderful time, and that you find much to inspire and shape your future teaching and learning. We are hopeful that this conference will impact you and your practice. We ask you to reflect on and let us know about at one change or action that will come about because of your engagement with the conference and its materials. Please tell us about it here by scanning this QR code.



Meanwhile, this short guide provides all the information you need about the day. In addition, if you have any questions at all, at any point, please reach out to any of the conference team! There will be a member of the ITL team on the registration desk at all times to help you.

We are proud that this conference is driven by and arises out of partnership with our students. Our plenary sessions bring students, staff and external experts into conversation, many of the papers, posters and wicked problem sets are co-produced or co-presented with students, and our conference themes emerge from student input at the University's annual review of teaching. Students and staff from around the University have also played a vital role in making this conference happen, from participating in our paper selection panel, to undertaking web and resource design, to filling delegate packs, and all their help throughout the event itself. We are incredibly grateful to all staff and students who have helped make this conference a reality – and to you for joining us. We look forward to hearing how this conference may shape your future practice.

Jennie Blake, University Lead for Student Success
Hannah Cobb, University Lead for Scholarship and Academic Development

Key

	Plenary Sessions
	Research Informed Teaching and Learning
	Teaching and Learning as Innovation
	Social Justice in Teaching and Learning
	Fringe and other events

University of Manchester T&L Conference: DAY 1 Wednesday 8th July 2026

Schedule Summary
Exhibitors arrive at 9.00

All Day: The Drum - Exhibition stalls & Posters – Prayer room; **2.217** – Quiet room; **2.219**

	Room 1 2.218	Room 2 2.220	Room 3 3.204	Room 4 4.205	Room 5 4.206	Room 6 4.204	Room 7 4.214
9.15 - 9.45	University Place, The Drum: Registration and Coffee Move to University Place Theatre B from 9.45 for prompt start at 10.00						
10.00 - 10.20	University Place Theatre B: Opening remarks – Professor Jenn Hallam						
10.20-10.30	10 minutes to move to first session						
10.30 – 11.30	D1.1.1. Standard Papers: VR and Gamification for Employability and Learning	D1.1.2. Standard Papers: Working with Partners (PEL) and Communities	D1.1.3. Standard Papers: Transition, Induction and Equity	D1.1.4. Lightning Talks: Playful, experiential and gamified learning	D1.1.5. Standard Papers: The Research-Teaching Nexus	D1.1.6. Wicked Problem Set: Academic Advising - All Change?	D1.1.7. Wicked Problem Set: From fear to fairness: Co-creating inclusive fitness to practise cultures
11.30 – 11.50	University Place, The Drum: Morning Coffee						
11.50 – 12.50	D1.2.1. Standard Papers: Students as research partners	D1.2.2. Standard Papers: Assessment and Feedback Transparency and Literacy	D1.2.3. Standard Papers: Building Belonging	D1.2.4. Standard Papers: Reflection, Coaching and Assessment Guidance	D1.2.5. Posters	D1.2.6. Wicked Problem Set: Finding the Fun in Learning: Using object-based learning to build an engaging and accessible classroom	D1.2.7. Wicked Problem Set: Supporting GTAs as Future Academics: An Action Learning Set on Expectations, Workload and Fair Practice
12.50 – 2.00	University Place, The Market: Lunch						

2.00 – 3.00	D1.3.1. Standard Papers: Visibility, Inclusion and Equity	D1.3.2. Standard Papers: What do students want and get from their degree? Researching student experiences	D1.3.3. Standard Papers: International students, belonging and social justice	D1.3.4. Lightning Talks: Communication and Clarity in Teaching and Learning	D1.3.5. Wicked Problem Set: Educators, assessment and academic integrity	D1.3.6. Wicked Problem Set: Engaging in meaningful scholarship	D1.3.7. Fringe Session: Meet the University's T&L Communities of Practice, Networks and ITL Fellowship Projects – Drop In
3.00 – 3.30	University Place, The Drum: Afternoon Coffee						
3.30 – 4.30	<p align="center">Plenary 1: Professor Helen Walkington (Oxford Brookes University) <i>Teaching and learning through research: moving towards a partner enabled learning approach?</i> University Place Theatre B</p>						
4.30 – 6.30	Christies Bistro: Drinks Reception						

Key

	Plenary Sessions
	Research Informed Teaching and Learning
	Teaching and Learning as Innovation
	Social Justice in Teaching and Learning
	Fringe and other events

University of Manchester T&L Conference: DAY 2 Thursday 9th July 2026

Schedule Summary

All Day: The Drum - Exhibition stalls & Posters – Prayer room; **2.217** – Quiet room; **2.219**

	Room 1 2.218	Room 2 2.220	Room 3 3.204	Room 4 4.205	Room 5 4.206	Room 6 4.204	Room 7 4.214
9.00 - 9.30	University Place, The Drum: Registration and Coffee						
9.30 - 10.20	Plenary 2: Dr Hardeep Basra (De Montfort University) and panel <i>Social justice in teaching and learning</i> University Place Theatre B						
10.20 - 10.30	Time to move to sessions						
10.30 – 11.30	D2.1.1. Standard Papers: Research informed AI in T&L	D2.1.2. Standard Papers: Human centred learning and the student voice	D2.1.3. Standard Papers: Applications of Universal Design for Learning and reflective Practice	D2.1.4. Lightning Talks: Innovation in Assessment	D2.1.5. Wicked Problem Set: What does belonging mean to you? A Reframing Workshop	D2.1.6. Wicked Problem Set: Bringing student led innovation in teaching and learning practice: scaling models of partnership within HE contexts	2.1.7. Wicked Problem Set: Beyond performance: Zines, accessibility and reimagining engagement
11.30 – 11.50	University Place, The Drum: Morning Coffee						
11.50 – 12.50	D2.2.1. Standard Papers: Researching Assessment and Feedback Literacy	D2.2.2. Standard Papers: Innovation and inclusion in blended learning	D2.2.3. Standard Papers: Wellbeing, Inclusion and belonging	D2.2.4. Lightning Talks: Using (and not abusing) AI in Assessment and Beyond	D2.2.5. Wicked Problem Set: Making Advising Work for All: Exploring Boundaries and Inclusion for	D2.2.6. Wicked Problem Set: Talking with strangers	D2.2.7. Fringe Session: Meet the AVPs Drop In Session

					Neurodivergent Students		
12.50 – 1.40	University Place, The Market: Lunch						
1.40 – 2.40	D2.3.1. Standard Papers: Reflection, Empathy and Mediation in T&L	D2.3.2. Standard Papers: Partner Enabled Learning in Practice	D2.3.3. Standard Papers: Equity and inclusion in large group and lab teaching	D2.3.4. Lightning Talks: Research Informed and Innovative Teaching	D2.3.5. Wicked Problem Set: Building A Community of Practice for Neurodivergent Teaching and Learning Scholarship	D2.3.6. Wicked Problem Set: From Learning Outcomes to Competence: What Should Graduates Be Able to Do and How Can We Map This Using Skill Portfolios?	D2.3.7. Wicked Problem Set - Embedding AI in the Curriculum: Are We Developing Skills or Following the Hype?
2.40 – 3.00	University Place, The Drum: Afternoon Coffee						
3.00 – 4.00	D2.4.1. Standard Papers: Students as Partners in Research, Innovation and Employability	D2.4.2. Standard Papers: Innovation through strong staff-student partnerships and GTA training	D2.4.3. Standard Papers: Blended, Flexible and Lifelong Learning	D2.4.4. Lightning Talks: Accessibility and Inclusion in Assessment, the Digital and Beyond	D2.4.5. Standard Papers: Authentic assessment with large cohorts	D2.4.6. Wicked Problem Set: Animating the Soul of Learning Mark Johnson, Siobhan Cartwright	D2.4.7. Fringe Session: UMSU Decolonising the Curriculum – led by Sohini Biswas
4.00 - 4.10	Time to move to Plenary						
4.10 – 4.50	Plenary 3: Professor Jenn Hallam and Professor John Holden (University of Manchester) <i>Innovation in Action – Reimagining the Student Experience</i> University Place Theatre B						
4.50 – 5.00	Closing Remarks: Sarah Dyer, Jennie Blake and Hannah Cobb						

Navigating the Conference – Key Information

Schedule and Abstracts

You can find all of the abstracts and the full schedule online by scanning these QR codes. Our abstract booklet is permanently located on the University of Manchester's Figshare. If you are accessing this guide online, you can also click on the QR codes to go directly to the page.

In addition, each room will have a printed schedule on the door so that you can easily check what is happening where.

If you need help finding a room or session, please look out for our student support team, who will be wearing red t-shirts. All rooms should have plenty of capacity but if a room is full, we might need to ask you to attend another session you find of interest.



Abstract Book



Detailed Schedule

Engaging with the conference

There are multiple ways to engage with the conference. All three plenaries will be livestreamed and recorded, if you feel you would rather not sit in the larger audience. Standard paper presentation sessions, lightning talks and poster presentations can be accessed in person or, for those who have registered for online attendance, on YouTube. They will also be recorded where speakers have given their permission. You can find all session recordings on the ITL's dedicated conference website after the event, and you can also peruse the posters there too.

If you want to post about the conference on social media, or follow what others are saying, you can use #ITLConf26.

Food and Drink:

There will be three opportunities for tea and coffee each day. In the morning tea and coffee will be 9.15-9.45 on 8th July and 9-9.30am on 9th July, and 11.30-11.50am on both days. In the afternoon refreshments will be served 3-3.30pm on the 8th July, and 2.40-3pm on 9th July. This will be available in the Drum area, on the ground floor of University Place.

For all who signed up for it, lunch will be provided on both days from 12.50 (until 2pm on 8th July, until 1.40pm on 9th July) in the Market Place on the ground floor of University Place. On Wednesday 8th July there will be an evening reception with refreshments and canapes in Christie's Bistro from 4.30-6.30pm.

Posters:

You can peruse the poster presentations at your leisure throughout the day in the Drum area, on the ground floor of University Place. You can also listen to brief oral presentations of the posters in University Place Room 4.206 between 11.50 and 12.50pm on Wednesday 8th July, and you can find them online [via the conference website](#).

Quiet Room:

Throughout the conference, if you need a break, there is a quiet room available in University Place Room 2.219.

Prayer Room:

For anyone requiring one, there is a dedicated prayer space in University Place Room 2.217.

Accessibility:



We strive to create an inclusive and accessible environment for all attendees. The conference venue is wheelchair accessible and there are hearing loops in all lecture and plenary rooms. Plenary sessions will also have live captions. We also have portable hearing loops – please ask at the ITL desk if you need one. You can read about the venue at the AccessAble website, which the QR code takes you to.

Code of Conduct

We are committed to ensuring that this conference provides a safe environment for all participants, built on mutual respect. We require everyone to abide by the University's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policies. We will not tolerate any form of bullying, harassment, discrimination, gender-based violence, hate or micro-aggressions. If you or someone at the conference experiences this please raise it as soon as possible with the session facilitator, colleagues on the ITL desk, or use the University's Report and Support service available via this QR code.



Exhibitors

We are lucky to have the following exhibitors from across the University who will be at stands in the Drum area throughout the conference, and the Institute of Teaching and Learning Team who will be on the main registration desk. Please do come and have a chat to our exhibitors to find out how they can support your teaching and learning.

Pure Support

The Pure Support Team will be available throughout the day if you have any questions about using Pure or setting up your University profile.

EDI

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) is a priority for all at the University and is recognised within University's vision and strategic plan.

The EDI policy sets out our commitment to promoting equality and providing an environment where all members of our community are treated with respect and dignity. The EDI Directorate, created in 2021, delivers our EDI strategy which sets out our aims for the next three years.

Colleagues within the Directorate provide advice, support and guidance on equality and diversity-related issues for all equality groups to both students and staff. This involves:

- developing and supporting the implementation of the University's equality objectives through involvement and consultation;
- data analysis of statistics and policy development;
- designing and delivering training and awareness raising campaigns;
- providing advice, support and guidance on related issues.”



You can find out more on the EDI website.

Teaching and Scholarship Network (TASN): Finding your Scholarship Community

Are you interested in developing your teaching and scholarship practice, and connecting with colleagues across the University of Manchester? The Teaching and Scholarship (T&S) Network provides a supportive, cross-Faculty community for all staff engaged in or interested in this area of academic practice.

Led by Hannah Cobb, Jenni Rose, and a cross-Faculty Steering Group, the network offers regular in-person and online events, a dedicated mailing list, and opportunities to share challenges, solutions, and innovative practice. Whether you're new to teaching and scholarship or an experienced practitioner, the T&S Network welcomes you.

To get involved or learn more, please visit:

<https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/umitl/resources/teaching-and-scholarship-network/>

Feedback

UoM Teaching and Learning
Conference 2026 feedback survey



We would really value your feedback to help inform future conferences. You can access our feedback form online by scanning this QR code. The form only takes a few minutes to complete. If you are accessing this guide online you can also click on the QR code to go directly to the page.

Following on from the conference

What changes will you make because of the UoM Teaching and Learning Conference 2026



Tell us how this conference will shape your practice:

We ask you to think of at least one change or action that will come about because of your engagement with the conference and its materials. Please tell us about it here by scanning this QR code. If you are accessing this guide online you can also click on the QR code to go directly to the page.

Online and ITL Resources:

There will be many chances to continue the conversations that begin here and now! After the conference the recordings of the plenaries and sessions, digital posters and outputs of the wicked problem sets will all be made available via the [ITL webpages](#) and [TEA blogs](#). They will also be developed through sessions in our open workshop programme of events. If you feel inspired and would like to see more on any topic or run a workshop in our open programme of events throughout the year, please email us at teaching.learning@manchester.ac.uk.

Recording your engagement

You can manually add your attendance to the [University's Training Catalogue](#). In addition you may wish to use the [Research Explorer web portal](#) which allows anyone (internally or externally) to find our staff online, and enables you to record activities such as your scholarship and outputs like your conference presentation. All academic staff are entitled to have a profile page, known as a Pure Profile. [You can read more about how to set up your Pure Profile here](#), and the Pure team will be on hand during the conference, at an exhibitor stall in the Drum area of University Place so please feel free to come along and have a chat with them.

Thank you!

This conference was organised by Jennie Blake, Hannah Cobb and Nahid Farzalizadeh. Hannah and Jennie want to express our thanks to Nahid for all of her support!

The conference has been made possible thanks to the generous time and work of many people across the University. In particular we want to thank:

- **All plenary panel members, speakers, presenters and exhibitors**
- **The Institute of Teaching and Learning Team:** Emma Sanders, Lisa McDonagh, Holly Dewsnip-Lloyd, Freya Corrywright, Beth Rotherham, Monique Sung, Cara Banerji Parker, Nahid Farzalizadeh, Esme Davies, Raluca-Elena Valcescu and Antonia Acanfora.
- **The conference organising team and paper committee:** Jen McBride, Andrew Holt, Tom Rodgers, Barbara Waters, Lei Zeng, Timothy Oliver, Christopher Neilson, Homa Molavi, Cesare Giulio Ardito, Kamal Qazi, Fariha Agha, Neil Morrison, Christina Picken, Kenneth Atuma, Oluwatoyin Dosumu, Xia Han, Maria Kostoglou, Olatunbosun Emmanuel Ogunseemi, Alison Zimmer, Emily Cooksey, Sara Jackson, Chris Godden, Katja Stuerzenhofecker, Claire Goulsbra, Stephine Whiteside, Mohamed Elhag Abdelrazig, Hira Zarif, Annette Nordhausen Scholes, Alison Harvey, Harry Potter, Martin Simmons, Danni Adeniyi, Maria Canal, Fernanda Tapia, Salman Shahid, Richard Figueroa, Amir Rahbarimanesh, Ahmed Ameya Prapan, Gabriela Lopez Santana, Palak Halvadia, Moises Vieira, Otto Jan Bakker
- **Session facilitators:** Jen McBride, Andrew Holt, Tom Rodgers, Barbara Waters, Lei Zeng, Timothy Oliver, Christopher Neilson, Homa Molavi, Cesare Giulio Ardito, Fariha Agha, Neil Morrison, Christina Picken, Kenneth Atuma, Xia Han, Maria Kostoglou, Olatunbosun Emmanuel Ogunseemi, Alison Zimmer, Emily Cooksey, Sara Jackson, Katja Stuerzenhofecker, Claire Goulsbra, Stephine Whiteside, Annette Nordhausen Scholes, Alison Harvey, Harry Potter, Martin Simmons, Danni Adeniyi, Maria Canal, Fernanda Tapia, Salman Shahid, Amir Rahbarimanesh, Ahmed Ameya Prapan, Palak Halvadia, Otto Jan Bakker
- **The library student team:** Samhita Mukherjee, Rachel Howe, Keira Higgins, Olivia Shaw, Divya Malhotra, Kai Prince, Wan Mohd Danial Iqbal, Timothy Cheuk Yin Chan, Adam Cooke, Eleanor Seed, Georgia Gray, Theo Abbott, Fariha Agha
- **The University of Manchester Conference and Events Team and Media Services**